Greene County Public Library (Ohio)
0 53 85 1828997 9

Canton: The Architecture of Our Home Town

Camille Wells

Canton Historical Commission

Canton: The Architecture of Our Home Town

Camille Wells

GREENE COUNTY ROOM
GREENE COUNTY LIBRARY
76 EAST MARKET STREET
XENIA, OH 45385

Canton Historical Commission
1985

GREENE COUNTY ROOM
GREENE COUNTY LIBRARY
76 EAST MARKET STREET
XENIA, OH 45385

Copyright © Canton Historical Commission
All rights reserved.

This publication was funded in part by a grant from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior, through the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the National Park Service nor of the State Department of Cultural Resources.

Cover photo: View of Canton's Main Street, looking west from Academy Street, taken about 1910. The original print is in the possession of the Chips *Office, Champion International, Canton Division.*

Printed by Mountaineer Graphics
Waynesville, North Carolina

Contents

Preface 5

Introduction 9

Geography 11

Era of the River: 1808-1856 14

Era of the Turnpike: 1856-1882 19

Era of the Railroad: 1882-1906 22

Champion — Era of Growth: 1906-1930 28

Champion — Era of Stability: 1930-1980 50

Epilogue 53

Notes 55

Catalog of Sites 61

Numerical Listing of Sites 249

Alphabetical Listing of Sites 254

Relevant Sources 259

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025

https://archive.org/details/architectureofou0000cami

Preface

For some fifteen years, the North Carolina Division of Archives and History has been conducting or sponsoring comprehensive surveys of the state's historic sites. Part of the funds for these studies are allocated to North Carolina — as they are to every state — by the National Park Service under the United States Department of the Interior. The primary goal of these publicly funded historic sites surveys is to provide both government agencies and private citizens with a guide to those existing cultural resources that should receive recognition and protection. Over time, these studies have acquired the additional role of generating information for scholars of American social history and material culture. Especially when the findings of the surveyor are assembled into a catalog like this one, the historic buildings survey also functions as a popular, accessible means of describing a community's special heritage — as well as its connections with larger historical and architectural developments.

In the fall of 1979, the Canton Historical Commission applied to the North Carolina Division of Archives and History for matching funds to conduct a survey of the buildings located within the Canton town limits. A grant was awarded to the commission in the spring of 1980, and I was fortunate to be hired to carry out the project. The fieldwork phase of the study was completed in October of that year, and the bulk of the research and synthesis was completed twelve months later. Although the original contract did not provide for the preparation of a survey catalog, the Canton Historical Commission and the town of Canton generously agreed to fund a publication that treated the results of my architectural and historical investigation.

In performing the survey of Canton — and in describing and interpreting the results — I began with the basic criteria outlined by the Department of the Interior, which advocate the recording of sites that are unique or exceptional in age, design, physical condition, or historical association. It was also my intention to follow the recommendations of the state Division of Archives and History to record a quantity of more modest structures representing common trends in American history and material culture.

Accordingly, I included in the study every institutional, commercial, and industrial structure that was at least forty years old, as well as a quantity of even more recently constructed buildings that have visual or contextual value. Among the residential sections of town, I studied houses — both individually and in neighborhood clusters — with the goal of illustrating a number of different sorts and periods of dwelling environments. Finally, I added demolished buildings to the study for cases in which there was enough documentary and pictorial information

to provide a sense of how the structures had fit into Canton's development.

The historical research began as a supporting effort to the process of describing and evaluating the town's buildings. Because there is a considerable amount of material available concerning the history of Canton, the time allocated to this part of the study eventually grew to equal that devoted to the fieldwork. Nevertheless, the structure and emphasis of the project — and of this publication — continue to be determined by the nature of the buildings themselves. My goal was not to produce a roster of discrete buildings with unconnected statements about their individual importance, but rather to describe and characterize groups of standing and demolished buildings in order to create a view of one community's historical and architectural development — much the way a painter might add layers and shades of color to a large and complex canvas.

During the several years that I have worked on this study, I have benefitted from the assistance of many people. It is now my pleasure to name them. As director of the western office of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Michael Southern supportively oversaw my fieldwork and research. His successor, Doug Swaim, was sympathetic and lenient in his supervision of my writing and editing efforts. Jerry Cross, historian with the Division of Archives and History in Raleigh, provided valuable criticism of my research conclusions. Agency photographer Nick Lanier expertly performed all of the photographic processing for this project. As head of the Survey and Planning Branch of the Division of Archives and History, Catherine Bishir was was continually a source of encouragement and sound advice.

I owe special thanks to Canton town manager Bill Stamey, who maintained a tolerant attitude in his local oversight of the project and who smoothed the way for my work on many occasions. Patrick Smathers, chairman of the town Uplift Committee and Doris Burrell, staff reporter for *The Mountaineer* offered the sort of enthusiastic support for the project that encouraged wider acceptance and participation in the study. Laura Soltis and Jan Fishback, both of the Haywood County Public Library, were cooperative and gracious during the local phase of my research. Don Randolph and Bob Phillips, consecutive directors of public relations at Champion International, made available a quantity of material concerning the company's history. C. W. Hardin gave me access to the photograph collection at Champion's *Chips* office.

The Canton Historical Commission served as the local sponsoring organization, and its members were unfailingly receptive and supportive. They listened with interest to my various presentations, and they read with quiet and careful attention all of the drafts I produced. Since 1980,

the commission has been under the serial chairmanship of Bill Stone and Don Leavenworth. Members of the commission have included Aurelia Seaman, Cora Mae Phillips, Buddy Plott, Jan Fishback, Angie Howell, Mary Alice Roberts, Helen West, Nan Williamson, and Kay Levine, a prominent local historian who also generously gave me the use of her unpublished study of eastern Haywood County.

For their insights and criticism as readers of the manuscript, I am grateful to Cam Walker, professor of history at the College of William and Mary, and to Carl Lounsbury, associate of the Department of Architectural Research at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Jim Whittenburg, director of the graduate studies in history at William and Mary, made it possible for apprentice editors Lisa Mullins and Carol Stiles to apply their considerable skills to the final draft. Gilbert Kelly, of the Institute of Early American History and Culture, kindly devoted some of his own time to the editorial process. Olive Clark cheerfully typed several versions of the manuscript.

The production of an appropriate, appealing cover design was the responsibility of Doug Taylor, an associate with the architectural firm of Notter, Finegold, and Alexander in Washington, D.C. He had an especially formidable task, for the brainstorming and wrangling that usually accompany thoughtful design processes eventually expanded to include a number of his former colleagues at the Colonial Williamsburg Department of Architectural Research. Opinions, sketches, and good-natured abuse were contributed by John Bernard, Will Graham, Mark R. Wenger, and Edward Chappell. The title script is the special contribution of Louise Rikard.

Finally, I owe a debt of gratitude to my parents, Jean and Carey Wells, who welcomed me back home while I conducted my fieldwork and research, and who watched and commented with genuine interest as the work progressed. Jean Wells also contributed her talents to the development of a cover design and layout plan. General professional assurance and moral support were provided by Edward Chappell. He first urged me to accept this project and consistently pressed me to excel.

It was with great eagerness that I took on the study of Canton's historic sites, for I was curious to apply the techniques of rigorous architectural survey to the community where I spent most of my early life. Moreover, as a surveyor of some experience, I thought I could conduct a superior study, and that I might make the finished product my own special contribution to Canton. In effect, I saw the project as an opportunity to teach where I had myself been nurtured and instructed. That notion strikes me now as insufferably smug.

While I expected to learn a great deal about the origin and development of one small industrial town in the southern mountains, I

did not expect to gain any significant new insights from the study. Nevertheless, as I worked, I began to see in a new way how the past and the present are interwoven. Canton is small enough and the community's history — in relative terms — is brief enough so that relationships of individuals to actions and causes to effects are unusually straightforward and accessible. In the end, the project taught me how specific impulses, choices, events, and trends work themselves out into buildings and streets — into a way of life, finally, that is explained and justified to each new generation. It is appropriate, then, that I dedicate this catalog to the community itself, and to my many teachers — both living and dead — who have made Canton their home town.

Camille Wells
Williamsburg, Virginia

Introduction

It is easy to take familiar things for granted, and that may be especially true of all the buildings in our home town. Yet if we stop for a fresh look, we are likely to take pleasure in identifying structures that are significant parts of our past: the house where we grew up, the doctor's office we used to visit, the store where we got our first job. If we look closer at this familiar architecture, we might also see signs of activities and associations that have little meaning for us, but which we can recognize as milestones in the lives of others — perhaps even of people who died long before we were born.

Like ourselves, these people confidently made Canton their home. They constructed houses and churches, laid out streets, established businesses, voted to allocate funds for schools, and welcomed or rejected newcomers. The old buildings that fill our landscape today provide evidence of how they got along, what they had in mind, and how their choices shaped Canton into the town we know today. Gradually, it becomes clear that each structure in town is a tangible link with our collective history.

This can be a disconcerting as well as a comforting realization. Buildings seem quite permanent and stable, but we suddenly notice how often and how drastically the function or appearance of a building can change. Moreover, when a building comes to be regarded as shabby or useless, it can disappear almost overnight. All of us can think, perhaps with regret, of missing pieces of our own architectural pasts — the house of a favorite aunt, or the Y.M.C.A. building where we learned to swim.

This architectural history of Canton, then, is a result of two realizations: that each building has a significant story to tell about our community's past, and that these structures are alarmingly vulnerable to change and neglect. Our approach will be to look first at the history of Canton while asking how the buildings around us can illustrate or enhance the story. This overview begins with a description of the town's physical setting. Succeeding historical sections are arranged chronologically, each with a heading that designates a major influence on the events of the period.

Following the general historical essay is a catalog that literally inventories the pieces of the past surviving around us. It includes photographs, descriptions, and histories of individual structures, streetscapes, and neighborhoods. While the historic architecture of Canton is the principal focus of this study, conclusions are also based on the materials, such as newspapers, census records, maps, and interviews, that are familiar to most historians. Furthermore, these sources have made it possible to expand the catalog to include a number of significant

buildings that no longer exist. If a demolished structure was located on the site of an existing recorded building, then information about it is included with that concerning the standing structure. Otherwise, razed buildings are treated in separate entries located near the end of the catalog.

In writing about architecture, assigning names is sometimes a problem. Buildings can change function or ownership frequently, and they often have more than one significant designation. For this reason, each site has been assigned a number that corresponds to the order of its appearance in the catalog. A site with one number may include more than one building: if a group of structures seem to fit well together — either geographically or historically — they may be treated as a unit. When a building is named or discussed in the text, its corresponding number appears parenthetically to indicate that the site receives more thorough treatment in the catalog. In some instances, directions to see precede the site number. This is a way of saying that the subject under discussion is related to one of the sites in the catalog, and that more information can be found there. The C- prefix is used with the site numbers to distinguish them from page numbers.

While this study of Canton's history and architecture is detailed, it is by no means exhaustive: the sites treated herein should be regarded as a representative sample of the town's significant cultural features. Thus, this publication might best be taken as an introduction — as a way of increasing our awareness of Canton's special character.

Geography

The shape of the land is an important component of any community, but in western North Carolina, it is a principal determinant. Located at the western edge of the state, Haywood County encompasses some 540 square miles of mountainous land (fig. 1).[1] The terrain slopes gradually toward the northwest so that most of the county's hundreds of creeks are directed toward the Pigeon River and its tributaries. The easternmost section of the county, however, is drained by Hominy Creek.[2] The two branches of Hominy Creek are of special importance in

fig. 1. Map of Haywood County, North Carolina. Reduced from a map produced by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Raleigh, N.C.

the history of Haywood County, for they define the corridors through Newfound Gap and along the Old Asheville Highway that first made Haywood County accessible from the east.[3]

While the deep, narrow valleys and coves surrounding Beaverdam, Richland, Jonathan, Crabtree, and Thickety creeks were all favored by early settlers, the most attractive land in the area was in the single broad valley through which the Pigeon River flows. Known by its present name in the earliest of grants and deeds, the Pigeon River appears as a landmark often enough in early property transactions to confirm a preference for its relatively rich bottomland.[4] In the widest part of the basin, travelers also found the place where the river could be forded most easily.

The two-square-mile area of Canton has an irregular shape that roughly follows the contours in the widest part of the Pigeon River Valley (fig. 2). Major thoroughfares tend to follow the ridges that rise

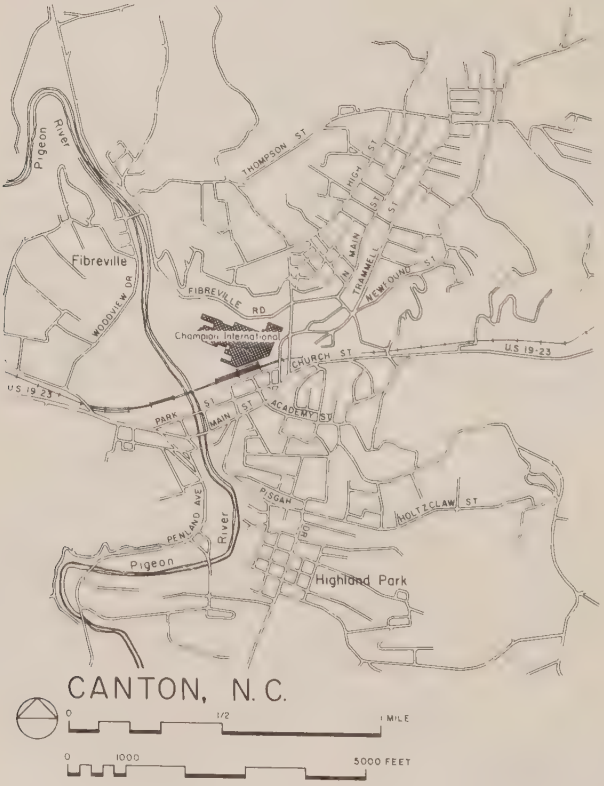


fig. 2. Map of Canton, North Carolina. Redrawn from a map produced by the U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C. (John Bernard)

away from or overlook the river, and a lacing of many intermediate streets is necessary to make the uneven terrain accessible. Intersections among streets are often formed at oblique angles, and numerous lots fall away sharply from the streets they line.[5] In other places, yards and streets are cut into hillsides and the resulting banks are stabilized by walls made of smooth river rocks. Throughout the community, ravines and steep banks block visibility and communication between contiguous neighborhoods — the natural vegetation of these untended interstices provide a picturesque contrast to the orderly buildings and plantings of more accommodating sites.

Era of the River: 1808-1856

Most of what is now western North Carolina was recognized as Cherokee hunting territory until 1793, when the North Carolina General Assembly repudiated the existing treaty with the Indians and declared a portion of this mountainous region open to white settlement.[6] In 1792, Buncombe County was designated as all of the Carolina lands west and southwest of the Blue Ridge. Sixteen years later, the General Assembly ratified a bill forming from Buncombe a smaller county to be named after incumbent state treasurer John Haywood.[7] Thomas Love, the Buncombe County legislator who introduced the bill, knew that naming the new political entity after a man prominent in the eastern part of the state was a way to insure that his proposal would receive favorable attention.[8] While Love was interested in improving the administration of the rapidly settling area, he also had a practical stake in the formation of the new county: the county seat was located at Waynesville on land owned by the Love family.[9]

In the years when land in western North Carolina was first available for private ownership, individual tracts tended to be extensive and were often acquired by speculators. It is said that all the land around the ford of Pigeon River was included in two grants of six hundred forty acres each.[10] After a county government and land office were established at Waynesville, an increasing number of small tracts were claimed by settlers who intended to inhabit and cultivate the land themselves.[11] Like many of those who migrated into other frontier regions during America's early national period, the settlers of Haywood County arrived not individually, but in family, congregation, or community groups. Most were Americans of English, Scotch-Irish, and German extraction.[12]

These early nineteenth-century newcomers found mountainous, heavily forested country that was both beautiful and difficult to traverse. Few early impressions were recorded, but the wild land must have looked very much like that which naturalist William Brewster saw in 1885. Because of his profession, Brewster's description of eastern Haywood County emphasized the natural scene.

> The locality is a fertile valley along Hominy Creek. The steep hillsides that wall it in were heavily timbered with hardwoods with a dense undergrowth of rhododendron. Along the edges of these woods black locust and rum cherries were in full bloom and in places glowing bits of orange, scarlet, and yellow marked the position of the beautiful Azalea . . . now at its perfection. . . . [A] hillside rose almost vertically to five hundred feet or more above the valley presenting the appearance of a solid wall of green foliage. On the crest of the ridges were scattered pitch pines . . . in the valley fine apple orchards.[13]

Only the presence of orchards suggests that Brewster was touring a region

that had been inhabited and farmed for some eighty years.

Within the first quarter of the nineteenth century, the cultural patterns of rural Haywood County were established. The landscape was dominated by relatively small farms owned by people who planned to stay (fig. 3). Indeed, a study conducted in the 1930s indicated that much of the real property in Haywood County was still held by the descendants of the original grantees.[14] The farmers cultivated mostly grains such as corn, wheat, rye, and oats, as well as vegetables, fruits — especially apples — and tobacco.[15] In addition, they raised cattle and swine, which were allowed to run free in the hills. Cash might be obtained by taking surplus crops, livestock, or timber to markets in Asheville or Greenville. Residents of the Pigeon Valley area were more fortunate than many of their mountain

fig. 3. Illustration of a dwelling in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Taken from Rebecca Harding Davis, "By-paths in the Mountains," *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* 61 (1880), p. 541.

neighbors because of their proximity to the natural east-west corridor along Hominy Creek, but travel and transport, even along this ancient trail, were dauntingly arduous.[16]

fig. 4. Molasses making on Newfound Mountain, about 1890. Photograph taken by S. A. McCanless of Asheville. Original in the possession of the Canton Historical Commission, Canton, N.C.

Mountain farmers learned to supply their own needs and to rely only on the assistance of their neighbors (fig. 4). Shared labor, borrowed tools, and traded produce not only made life more comfortable, but also fostered networks of friendship, obligation, and kinship as well. In this way, remote mountain communities like that of the Pigeon Valley region developed strong local loyalties and interests, while concern for outside issues remained tenuous and fragmented.[17] During the Civil War, mountain settlements disregarded the rhetoric of eastern political leaders and lined up on both sides of the issues, generally according to their familial or religious loyalties.[18]

Haywood County residents required accessible places to meet, worship, exchange information, and trade: one of the places they selected for this interaction was also a popular route for travel through the area: the ford of the Pigeon River (fig. 5). This spot in the county's broadest valley had become a gathering place as early as 1803, when a major revival had generated an increase in evangelical activity throughout the South.[19] As a result, Locust Field Baptist Church (see C-65 and C-72) was organized in 1803. Said to be the first church of any denomination founded west of Asheville, Locust Field Church was situated on a hilltop just east of the

ig. 5. Illustration of shallow fording place in the Swannanoah River. Taken from Rebecca Harding Davis, "By-paths in the Mountains," *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* 61 (1880), . 357.

iver. There is some evidence that the site of the church had served the rural community as a cemetery since the late eighteenth century. By about 1890 when the original log building was replaced with a larger frame one, the churchyard was strewn with gravestones, many bearing the names of the area's earliest settlers (fig. 6).[20]

In response to the activity at the Pigeon River ford, a post office was founded there in 1837. Over the course of the nineteenth century, post office records identify the community variously as Pigeon River, Pigeon Ford, and Ford of Pigeon, thus indicating that the place was thought of more as a geographical convenience than as an established town.[21]

fig. 6. Locust Field Church (C-72) about 1910. Original photograph in the possession of the Canton Historical Commission, Canton, N.C.

Era of the Turnpike: 1856-1882

In 1848, the North Carolina General Assembly authorized con-

ıg. 7. Illustration of a stagecoach stop on the Western Turnpike near Asheville. Taken rom Rebecca Harding Davis, "By-paths in the Mountains," *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* 61 (1880), p. 366.

struction of a road — called the Western Turnpike — from Asheville to the Tennessee state line. The thoroughfare, which followed the worn Hominy Valley trail and crossed the Pigeon ford, was completed through Haywood County by 1856.[22] This regional improvement not only made piedmont markets more accessible to mountain farmers, it also increased the flow of traffic through the area: in 1870, weekly stage travel was initiated between Asheville and Murphy (fig. 7).[23]

Travelers through Pigeon River found just a scattering of log and frame dwellings,[24] and the bucolic quality of the settlement might be inferred from a stagecoach traveler's contemporary description of nearby Waynesville, a much more populous community:

> [N]one of the hurries or clamors of the world reached this beautiful isolated mountain hamlet. All day long the shadows of the mountains crept across the plains below, while fleecy clouds hung half way up their sides. The monotony of village life was broken only by the arrival of the mail each evening — a tiny satchel brought by a man on horseback — or the occasional arrival of a farmer in blue homespun going farther up into the mountains to salt his cattle . . .[25]

While this outsider romanticized the apparent timelessness of life in the mountains, the turnpike was effecting significant changes in Pigeon River. In 1869, Robert Penland, a prominent landowner and one of the settlement's first postmasters, built a two-story brick house (C-95) near the side of the road (fig. 8). Across the river, a two-story frame dwelling was

fig. 8. Penland-Wells House (C-95) about 1915. Original photograph in the possession of Margaret W. Hudson, Canton, N.C.

constructed, probably for local blacksmith John Anderson (see C-42). According to a state business directory, the mountain farmer in blue homespun would have found no commercial activity in Pigeon River at the end of the Civil War. By 1872, however, the settlement had a flour mill owned by J. C. Smathers.[26] Just five years later, listings in the business directory were even more numerous. Smather's mill faced competition for farmers' grain crops from C. S. Thompson's mill. A third enterprise, W. B. Smathers' tannery, required a ready supply of tannin in order to remain busy, and its presence thus indicates that farmers around the Pigeon Valley supplemented their income with seasonal logging operations. Three general stores, those of C. S. Thompson, W. J. Hampton, and the Mease brothers, had also been established.[27] W. J. Hampton was probably representative of the other businessmen who appeared in Pigeon River during the 1860s and 1870s. A native of the Leicester community in Buncombe County, Hampton moved to Pigeon River in 1873, drawn by the commercially promising juxtaposition of mountain valley, turnpike, and river crossing.[28] His first store was located on the north side of Main Street (see C-48). When he became prosperous, he moved his family into a two-story brick house (C-93) that had been constructed some twenty years before on a hillside overlooking the river plain (fig. 9).

fig. 9. A parade on Canton's Main Street, about 1905. The Hampton House (C-93) is visible near the top of the frame. Original photograph in the possession of Aurelia Seaman, Canton, N.C.

Era of the Railroad: 1882-1906

In 1854, the Western North Carolina Railroad Company was chartered by the state to construct a rail line from Salisbury to the Tennessee border. By 1860, tracks had been laid almost as far as Morganton. The undertaking was resumed after the Civil War, strengthened by the new conviction that the southern states could regain their affluence only by developing industries and exploiting natural resources.[29] Construction of a railway through the mountain terrain proved expensive, and by 1875, the rail company was in financial trouble. In 1880, William J. Best offered to buy the Western North Carolina Railroad from the state, using first the backing of three other New York financiers and, when they lost interest, the support of Virginia's Richmond and Danville Railroad.[30] Construction continued and the railway was completed to Pigeon River in 1881, just as Best defaulted, and the Richmond and Danville Railroad claimed ownership. The state legislature, alarmed that the Virginia company would divert most of the lucrative freight traffic to the north of the Carolina border, attempted to forfeit the contract. While these difficult matters were resolved, Pigeon River remained the end of the line for western North Carolina's only railway (fig. 10).[31] The Richmond and Danville Railroad continued construction in 1883, and tracks were completed to the Ten-

fig. 10. View of Canton, looking west from the deep railroad cut at the east end of town about 1895. Original photograph in the possession of the Canton Historical Commission, Canton, N.C.

nessee border by 1890, giving Pigeon River potentially profitable rail connections with three states. In 1894, the entire rail system of western North Carolina was reorganized into the Southern Railway Company (see C-98).[32]

The ease and speed with which railroads could move people and goods had a significant effect on all the communities through which they passed. Pigeon River, however, sustained especially profound changes as a result of its two-year position at the westernmost terminus of the rail line. Between 1881 and 1883, while the community was the area's most important shipping point, residents first decided to replace the sleepy rural-sounding name of their village with one that could express the newly surging commercial energy and hope for a prosperous future. As the railroad had generated these changes, it seemed appropriate that the town be called "Buford" after Algernon Sidney Buford, president of the Richmond and Danville Railway.[33] Despite the apparently fitting quality of this choice, the name never enjoyed wide acceptance. Pigeon River still dominated the identity as well as the geography of the community in 1889, when the town was first incorporated by the General Assembly (fig. 11).[34]

The railroad's impact on local commercial activity was almost immediate. While Pigeon River had supported only three general stores in 1872, eight merchants were listed in an 1884 business directory.[35] Long-

fig. 11. View of the ford of the Pigeon River, looking north toward the railroad bridge, about 1895. Original photograph in the possession of Howard and Mary Sellars, Canton, N.C.

established local names, such as Reno and Massey, were represented among the owners of the new enterprises, but outsiders were responding to Pigeon River's commercial promise as well. Among them was Charles Wells, a native of Leicester, North Carolina, who was attracted to the river village in 1881 by the newly constructed railroad. He initially lived by himself at the back of the framed and weatherboarded store that he built on Main Street (see C-43). After his marriage, he moved to a two-story frame house near the first railroad depot (fig. 12). He eventually bought the Penland House (C-95) at the west end of town.[36] General merchandising was not the only commercial living to be made in Pigeon River. J. A. May established a nursery, and by 1890, the Mease brothers were running a drug store.[37] In 1886, W. F. P. McGee (see C-60) came to the village from the Fines Creek area of Haywood County to make his living in the shipping and wholesaling of fresh produce, furs, ginseng, and beeswax which he collected from the mountain farmers.[38]

The railroad also made western North Carolina more accessible to manufacturers, who could profit by extracting and processing the region's raw materials. Capitalists began to buy up mountain land, especially after the Southern Railway standardized freight rates in the 1890s. Indeed, by 1895, lumbermen had bought all available tracts of timber in the southern states (fig. 13).[39] Systematic logging operations also fostered related finishing plants such as tanneries, veneer works, and furniture factories.[40]

fig. 12. House formerly located on the site of the Champion Main Office (C-25), about 1910. Taken from *The Log* 5 (June, 1918), p. 4.

By 1890, Pigeon River's grist mills and tannery had been joined by a bobbin, spoke, and rim factory.[41]

Outsiders were not just drawn to the mountains for material gain. Between 1880 and 1890, relatively easy rail travel made western North Carolina appealing to vacationers as well. Asheville grew from a town of two thousand residents in 1880 to one of ten thousand inhabitants by 1890 as a result of the tourist trade.[42] While it became the largest and best known of the vacation centers, numerous other mountain communities — including Pigeon River — were also transformed into resort towns.[43] During the 1890s, Pigeon River supported at least two hotels, one of which was run by Mark Mears (see C-44).[44] An early twentieth-century map of the town indicates that the hillside located to the south of Main Street was lined with big, inviting hotels and rooming houses.[45]

This same map provides some information about how Pigeon River must have looked during the last decades of the nineteenth century, after the railroad had been constructed. Main Street was the only street that was clearly defined. Along its length from the river to the railroad were interspersed stores and dwellings, almost all of which were constructed of wood. Most of the stores, like that built by Charles Wells, were one or two stories in height and were oriented with a gable end toward the street. Also like the Wells structure, many of them may have had parapets on the front, and very little in the way of other ornamental features.

The houses were also built to one or two stories, usually with asymmetrical arrangements of rooms that made them look as if they had been

fig. 13. Teams of oxen hauling sawmilling equipment down Canton's Main Street, about 1895. Visible in the background is the intersection of Main Street with Adams Street. Original photograph in the possession of Howard and Mary Sellars, Canton, N.C.

built in many stages. Unlike the stores, most dwellings were set back on their lots, so that yards and fences were a part of Main Street views. A good example of the houses that were built in Pigeon River after the railroad arrived was the Hampton-Cochran House, located on the present site of the First Union Bank (C-51). Constructed about 1889, the house had the T-shaped plan that found favor throughout the South at the turn of the century (fig. 14).

Unlike the commercial buildings, some of these late nineteenth-century dwellings were elaborately decorated. Probably one of the most ornate houses of that period was the dwelling which later became part of the Imperial Hotel (C-59). This two-story structure had bracketed first- and second-story porches and a distinctive corner turret. Its varied surfaces and materials were emphasized by two or more colors of paint (fig. 15).

In 1894, local officials ordered from the Wrought Iron Bridge Company in Canton, Ohio an iron truss bridge to span the Pigeon River. The community thus overcame the control that the Pigeon River and its shallow ford had maintained over regional traffic and local interaction throughout the nineteenth century. With the bridge in place, renewed thought was devoted to renaming the town. Local resident Cash L. Mingus is credited with suggesting "Canton," after the city where the iron bridge was manufactured (fig. 16). The new name became official in 1895.[46]

fig. 14. Hampton-Cochran House (see C-51), about 1890. Original photograph in the possession of Aurelia Seaman, Canton, N.C.

fig. 15. Imperial Hotel (C-59) about 1895, when it was still a private residence. Original photograph in the possession of Aurelia Seaman, Canton, N.C.

fig. 16. Bridge manufacturer's nameplate, all that survives of the structure from which Canton took its name in 1895. Taken from *The Enterprise* 10 May 1979, p. 1.

Champion — Era of Growth: 1906-1930

In retrospect, the naming of Canton after an Ohio industrial city seems especially prophetic. At the height of outside interest in Appalachian natural resources, Ohio businessman Peter G. Thomson and his Champion Coated Paper Company focused enterprising attention on Canton and its surrounding timberlands (fig. 17). Few events have had such a lasting impact on the mountains of western North Carolina.[47]

Thomson, a native of Cincinnati, had begun his career in 1871 as a shipping clerk in a bookstore. In 1893, he sold a successful publishing house to finance the construction of a paper-coating mill at Hamilton, Ohio.[48] Thomson's coated papers were popular, and shortly he was able to expand his operations to include the production of paper and coating agents. By the turn of the century, the Champion Coated Paper Company enjoyed a prominent position in the industry, but Thomson and his managers felt that success would not be secure until the company initiated production of its own supply of wood pulp.[49] While visiting his son Logan, who attended Asheville School for Boys, Thomson was favorably impressed by the timber resources of western North Carolina.[50] He bought forty thousand acres of forest land in and around Haywood County and turned his attention to acquiring a convenient location for a

fig. 17. Peter G. Thomson with Calvin Coolidge, about 1925. Taken from a photograph in the possession of Champion International, Stamford, Connecticut.

pulp mill. Champion's construction engineer considered several communities — including nearby Clyde — but found in Canton all the necessary components of a profitable operation: a level building site, an adequate water supply, access by rail to processing materials and markets, low freight rates, room for the community to grow, and little competition for the available labor supply.[51] By 1906, he had purchased a section of the river plain from Canton's mayor J. Nelson Mease for four thousand dollars.[52]

There is little evidence regarding how inhabitants of the Canton area came to accept the proposed pulp mill, or of the misgivings and enthusiasms they expressed. One local tradition concerns Thomson's conference with four principal town leaders, J. N. Mease, W. J. Hampton (see C-48 and C-93), Turner Sharp (see C-28, C-58, and C-59), and Charles Wells (see C-43 and C-95). Their remarks about the town's three-hundred-dollar debt indicate some uneasiness about the community's ability to accommodate the civic demands of rapid growth.[53]

Initial concern that the mill would produce dangerous fumes has been treated lightly in recent years,[54] but early twentieth-century residents of Canton were well informed. Some twenty-three thousand acres of crops and timberland in the vicinity of Ducktown, Tennessee had been denuded by toxic gases emitted from open copper smelters.[55] Furthermore, lumbering operations were often creating raw and barren mountain landscapes. Western North Carolina natives were aware that industrial development could have destructive as well as positive effects. They were nevertheless finally persuaded by Thomson's assurances that the pulp mill would be "a blessing to the area. . . ." [56]

In 1906, Champion Fibre Company (C-25), a subsidiary of the Champion Coated Paper Company, initiated construction of the Canton mill (fig. 18). When a financial panic and on-site problems slowed building progress, Thomson sent his son-in-law Reuben B. Robertson to western North Carolina. Robertson recalled that:

> Construction work in the fall and winter of 1906 and 1907 lagged painfully and expensively due in part to an exceptionally wet season when the "bottom" (as the mill site was called) was a sea of bottomless mud. Pipe trenches and foundation excavations would "slump" into nothingness overnight and would have to be dug out anew the next day. . . . The workers of the region were for the most part mountain farmers who (except for having worked out their road tax on the highways) had never had experience on "public works" where they were under orders from a "boss." They wanted the extra income that came from "public works" but after all the needs of their own farms came first. When there was a crop to be planted or to be harvested, public works were forgotten and the worker headed for home returning to the job after his chores were completed.[57]

fig. 18. Supervisors of construction at the Champion Fibre Company mill in Canton, about 1906. Taken from *The Log* 7 (July, 1923), p. 9.

Robertson had a law practice in Cincinnati and his role in Canton initially was meant to be temporary, but he stayed on to become general manager of the plant and eventually president of the merged Champion Paper and Fibre Company.[58] It was Robertson who determined the character of relations between workers and management, and between the Mill, as it is commonly called, and the Canton community. His paternalistic policies and attitudes profoundly affected life in Canton during the first half of the twentieth century (fig. 19).

The completed Canton plant, representing a two-million-dollar investment, began production in January of 1908 (fig. 20). Three methods of processing timber operated simultaneously: a sulfite mill produced wood pulp from spruce — the favored timber for paper manufacturing — while poplar and chestnut were "cooked" into pulp by a soda mill.[59] A third plant used a system, patented by Thomson, to extract tannin from chestnut timber without destroying its paper-making properties.[60] In the first years of production, the Mill employed six hundred fifty men to operate machinery that could daily process some three hundred cords of wood (fig. 21).[61] The Mill manufactured two hundred tons of wood pulp each day with a profitable by-product of some two thousand barrels of tannic acid. This substance, vital to the leather-making industries, was so lucrative that it paid for the Mill's wood supply.[62]

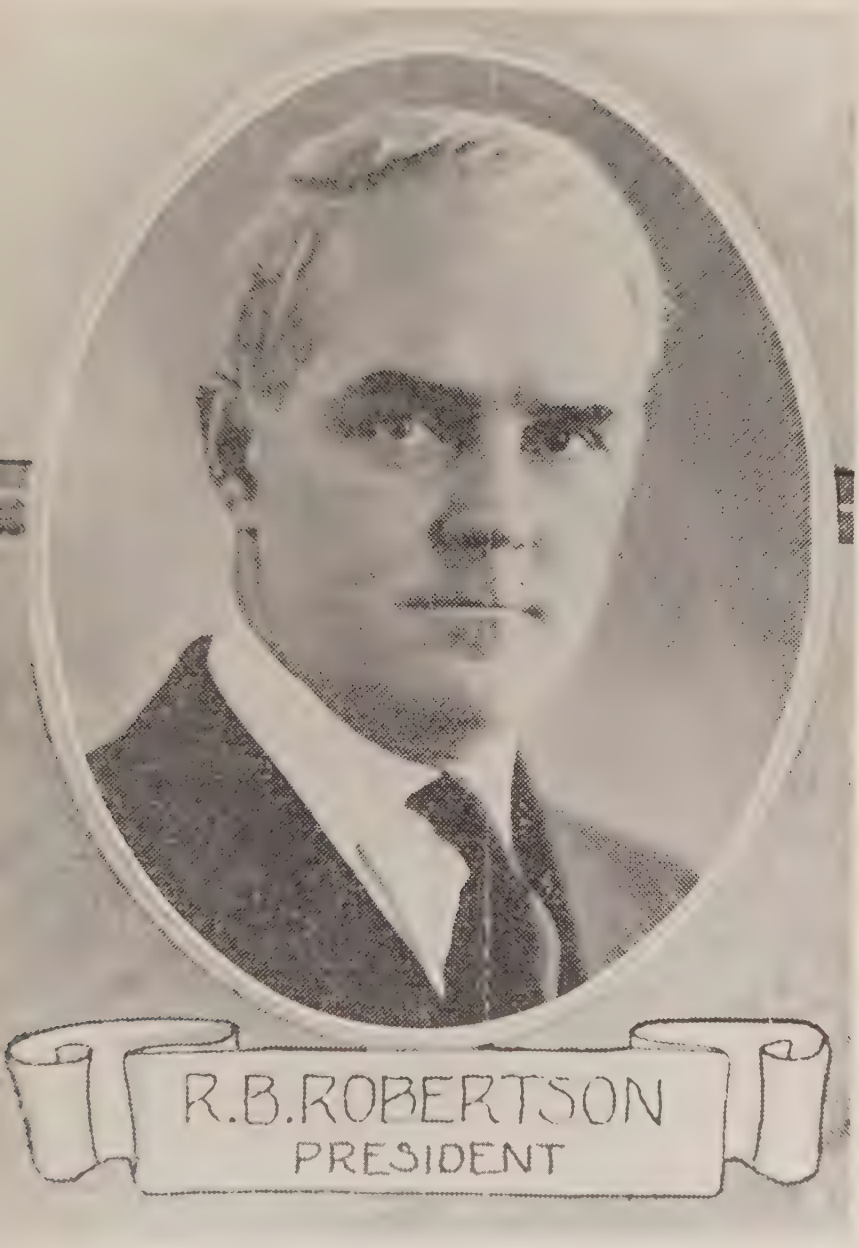


fig. 19. Reuben B. Robertson, about 1920. Taken from *The Log* 8 (July, 1924), p. 3.

Within fifteen years, Champion expanded the Canton mill to include e manufacture of several grades of paper, and over a thousand employees

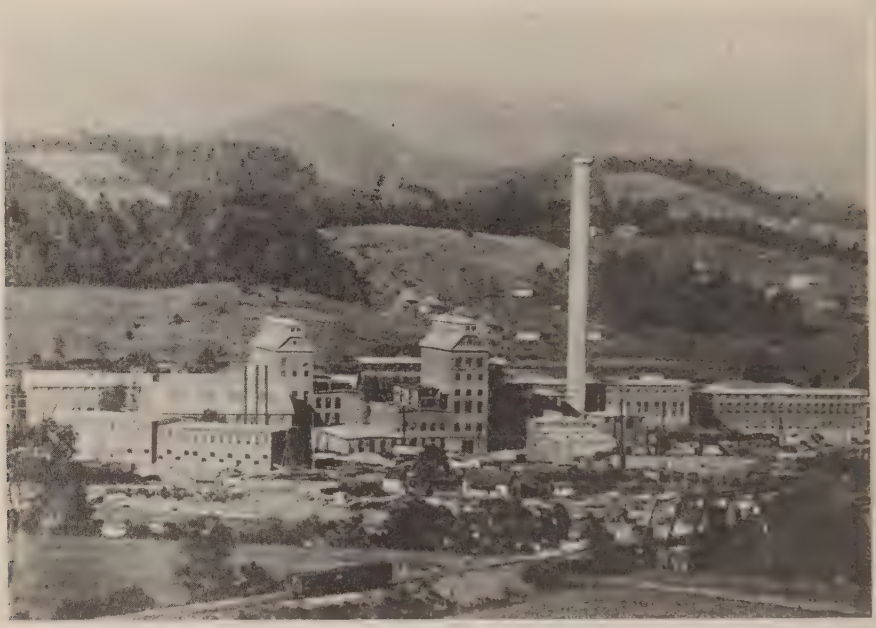


fig. 20. View from the southwest of Champion Fibre Company's pulp mill at Canton, about 1906. Original photograph in the possession of the *Chips* Office, Champion International, Canton, N.C.

fig. 21. View of the Champion Fibre Company mill in Canton, about 1915. Original photograph in the possession of the *Chips* Office, Champion International, Canton, N.C.

ere on the payroll by 1924.[63] Using some six hundred cords of wood, the lant could daily produce three hundred seventy-five tons of pulp, between fty and sixty tons of paper, and five hundred barrels of tannic acid. Other y-products included turpentine and caustic soda.[64] Indeed, industry ex-erts judged Canton's Champion operation to include the largest pulp and aper mill and the largest tannic acid plant in the world.[65] Concerned with ne stability of the operation, Champion Fibre Company had, by the eve of ne First World War, invested five million dollars in the Canton mill and ad purchased a hundred and twenty-five thousand acres of timberland in ne surrounding area.[66]

The construction of the Champion plant had a drastic impact on anton that has rightly been regarded as unique, but it was also part of an ndustrial trend to establish extracting and processing operations nroughout the Appalachian mountains. In 1880, the population of the outhern mountains was widely distributed among rural settlements, while orty years later, a majority of the population was concentrated in industrial enters of varying size (fig. 22). Farm acreage had diminished and farm roduction had decreased as a major source of income.[67] Champion and its ounterparts did provide, as Peter Thomson intended, mountain people ith steady work and the chance to handle cash, but many of these new nployees sought wage work because they could no longer survive as rmers: acreage bought by industrial developers was no longer available or cultivating crops, hunting game, and ranging livestock.[68]

Whatever their motives, hundreds of mountain natives moved to anton to find work at the Mill. In 1900, Canton had been a village of only 30 residents. By 1910, when Champion had been in operation for two ears, the population had increased fivefold to 1,393 residents (fig. 23). he population rose again to a total of 2,584 inhabitants by 1920. Growth owed somewhat during the 1920s, but annexations to the town limits aused the population nearly to double once more, for a total of 5,117 sidents by 1930.[69]

Part of the community's growth — especially in the early years — was e result of Champion's campaign to recruit a management-level crew of en who were already experienced in pulp production and papermaking. epresentative of the newcomers to the area was Carl Jentz (see C-8), a apermaker of German parentage who had been working for a company in anada.[70] George M. Trostel (see C-74), a native of Pennsylvania, moved Canton to become the mill's chief chemist.[71] Englishman Tommy Furness ee C-2) arrived in 1906 to supervise brick construction at the plant. He mained with Champion's construction department until 1947.[72] As a sult of this influx, Canton quickly acquired the highest percentage of non-tive inhabitants of any community in western North Carolina.[73] In 1916, special edition of the *Carolina Mountaineer* exclaimed that Champion

Fibre Company had:

> . . .brought here in the numerous executives, heads of departments, and expert machinists a very substantial class of citizens, who have come from all over the world. The names in the membership roster of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias represent every State in the Union, the Provinces of Canada, and many European countries.[74]

Before the arrival of the mill, time had been marked in Canton by the

fig. 22. A crew of millhands at Champion Fibre Company about 1910. Original photograph in the possession of Howard and Mary Sellars, Canton, N.C.

armers' schedules of planting, harvesting, and marketing, and in more ecent years by the arrival and departure of trains and by the limits of the ourist season. After 1908, the town functioned according to the new hythms of shifts, factory whistles, and paydays. Reuben B. Robertson escribed the first means by which the pulp mill was kept in profitable peration.

> In the days of its youth, Champion, in keeping with the practice of all other continuous process industries . . . operated on a two shift basis, a day shift of 11 hours and a night (or graveyard) shift of 13 hours. Each weekend the entire plant was shut down for a twenty-four [hour] period to make repairs and adjustments that could not be made during the week. On these "repair" days not only maintenance mechanics but operating crews as well were called in, in order to shorten as much as possible the idle time of the productive machinery. The weekly shift change, along with this repair day work, often resulted in workmen remaining on the job twenty-four hours a day without any rest period. Naturally, the man-hour efficiency was very low and the work done was very costly.[75]

Champion was among the first pulp and paper mills to establish more productive three-shift schedules (fig. 24). Because of the increased vigor of the workmen, the change occurred with a relatively small addition to the payroll, and the management found that the weekly shutdowns could be eliminated.[76]

g. 23. View of Main Street, looking west from Academy Street, about 1910. Original hotograph in the possession of the *Chips* Office, Champion International, Canton, N.C.

fig. 24. A crew of millhands, about 1910. Original photograph in the possession of the *Chips* Office, Champion International, Canton, N.C.

However grueling the mountain workmen may have found their regularized "public work," Champion employees enjoyed considerations and benefits that were unfamiliar to most industrial employees. The Champion Fibre Company was among the first to institute incentive plans of wage payment, regular five-year raises, paid vacations, a retirement program, and a credit union. Prizes and bonuses were awarded for positive cooperative behavior, and a lenient system of workers' compensation helped to promote goodwill among the labor force.[77] Robertson, the acknowledged initiator of these and other policies, intended to manage a productive and stable plant by "personalizing" the relations between management and labor, and by giving each employee an "understanding [of] the principals [sic] of industrial survival in the competitive world of free enterprise, and we wanted him to *enjoy* his share in the tasks of the common enterprise."[78]

The construction of Champion's mill and the attendant burgeoning of Canton's population transformed the commercial life of the town. Newspaper advertisements indicate that by 1916, the seven or eight established general stores were competing with or were superseded by some forty businesses, most of which specialized in clothing, groceries, medicines, hardware, or furniture.[79] Between 1910 and 1920, the entire commercial district was rebuilt (fig. 25). Maps of Canton drawn in 1912

ig. 25. View of Main Street, looking west from Academy Street, in 1923. Taken from *The Log* 7 (July, 1923), p. 8.

show how crisp brick commercial buildings were crowding out the frame stores and dwellings that had coexisted amicably along Main Street since the 1880s.[80]

By 1915, Charles Wells' wooden store building had been demolished to make room for a row of one- and two-story brick structures (C-43) where Wells and his sons Broadway, Wallace, and James had expanded and divided the family business.[81] Before the construction of the mill, the wedge-shaped block between Main and Church streets (C-30) had been occupied by a one-story frame dwelling and its surrounding yard. In 1912, the block was filled by four two- and three-story brick buildings that contained a butcher's shop, a dry goods store, a fish market, and a movie house.[82] W. F. P. McGee abandoned his wholesale marketing of products that Haywood County farmers could raise or gather in favor of retail merchandising. By 1915, when his new brick store was completed on Main Street (C-60), he dealt exclusively in dry goods, notions, and ladies' ready-to-wear.[83] Town maps show that all of the streets in Canton's commercial district were well defined and were crowded with masonry store buildings in 1930. By that date, the Canton business section looked very much as it does today.[84]

fig. 26. Canton's first firefighters, posing near 155 Main Street (see C-31), about 191(Original photograph in the possession of the *Chips* Office, Champion Internationa Canton, N.C.

The twentieth-century industrialization and commercialization o Canton easily outstripped the town's capacity to provide necessar services. In 1907 when the first bond issue was passed to provide fund for civic improvements, Canton had no waterworks, fire protection, o paved streets.[85] Even with tax money available, the town newspaper sti complained of axle-deep mud confounding traffic in many areas.[86] I 1917, the first concrete streets were laid, and by 1930, the tow maintained some ten miles of hard-surfaced streets.[87]

Modern water and sewer lines were installed in 1919, but not befor Canton had endured at least one season of typhoid (see C-99).[88] Th Canton Electric and Telephone Company (see C-30 and C-86) wa established in 1909 and within two years, the town enjoyed its firs electric street lights.[89] The first volunteer fire protection (fig. 26) initiate in 1909, was housed in a building on Main Street near Depot Street (se C-31). By 1930, a twenty-man force (fig. 27) operated out of a new fi station on Church Street (see C-30).

The same bond issue that first provided public money for stre improvement also raised funds for the construction of Canton's fir public school. Located on Mease Hill overlooking the Mill, the Canto Graded School (C-21) was opened in September of 1907 (fig. 28).[90] Th

fig. 27. Canton Fire Department, posing at 27 Church Street (see C-30), about 1920. Original photograph in the possession of Betty Lou Tate, Canton, N.C.

fig. 28. Canton Graded School (C-21) in 1916. Taken from the *Carolina Mountaineer: Haywood County Industrial and Resort Edition*, 21 December 1916, p. 11.

fig. 29. The first graduating class of the Canton Graded School (C-21) in 1910. Original photograph in the possession of Betty Lou Tate, Canton, N.C.

first class graduated three years later (fig. 29). The local school system was expanded in 1922 with the construction of several other structures, including a new building at North Canton and a graded school across town on Pennsylvania Avenue (C-73). In 1931, the town system was further enlarged with the construction of the Canton High School (C-85)

fig. 30. Members of Canton's fraternal society of Masons posing at the side of the Locust Field Academy (see C-65), about 1895. Original photograph in the possession of the Canton Historical Commission, Canton, N.C.

on Penland Avenue. Champion Fibre Company made an important contribution to available community facilities in 1919 with the construction of the Champion Y.M.C.A. (C-97). Planned to include a pool, billiards room, gymnasium, and bowling alleys, the structure was for many years the center of much of the town's social life.[91]

Beyond their obvious significance as civic facilities, the schools and the Y were places where all the residents of Canton — an overwhelming majority of whom were newcomers to town — could meet and discover or develop common interests. Nevertheless, outlanders who were unfamiliar with mountain ways and natives who were adjusting to town life and factory work also looked for smaller groups in which they might establish or reaffirm a sense of belonging.[92] Partially to fill this need, chapters of the Masons (fig. 30), Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, and Woodmen of the World were all founded before 1920.[93]

For similar reasons, Canton's congregations became larger and more numerous, and by about 1920, all of the major churches in town had been built or rebuilt. The old Locust Field Baptist Church (C-72) was reorganized as the First Baptist Church (C-65) and in 1915, an imposing brick structure was erected on Academy Street (fig. 31). The congregation of Canton's Methodist Episcopal Church South, which had been active in the community since 1875, constructed a similarly monumental building on Church Street in 1910 (fig. 32). Sometime

fig. 31. First Baptist Church (C-65) in 1916. Taken from the *Carolina Mountaineer: Haywood County Industrial and Resort Edition*, 21 December 1916, p. 43.

fig. 32. Central Methodist Church (C-26) in 1916. Taken from the *Carolina Mountaineer, Haywood County Industrial and Resort Edition*, 21 December 1916, p. 43.

ig. 33. First Methodist Church (C-20) in 1916. Taken from the *Carolina Mountaineer: Haywood County Industrial and Resort Edition,* 21 December 1916, p. 43.

ig. 34. Canton Presbyterian Church (C-23) in 1916. Taken from the *Carolina Mountaineer: Haywood County Industrial and Resort Edition,* 21 December 1916, p. 43.

around 1920, the congregation adopted the present name of Central Methodist Church (C-26). The First Methodist Church (C-20), formed principally by new residents from the northern states, was established in 1909, just a year after the mill went into production. The congregation erected a building on Newfound Street which is the oldest surviving church structure in Canton today (fig. 33).

Because of the character of nineteenth-century southern revival movements, most natives of the North Carolina mountains were either Baptists or Methodists. By 1904, however, Presbyterians in the vicinity were numerous enough to support the founding of the Canton Presbyterian Church (C-23). A one-story frame house on Newfound Street was purchased to serve as a manse, and a frame church building was constructed on the adjacent lot (fig. 34).[94] In 1906, Canton Episcopalians established a mission school (C-99) on a hillside overlooking the Fibreville community (fig. 35). Twelve years later, Champion officials bought the school and converted it to a hospital. The congregation subsequently acquired a lot on Academy Street and erected St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (C-66) in 1922.[95]

Like its commercial and institutional architecture, Canton's domestic buildings were transformed and vastly increased by the arrival of the Champion Fibre Company. Because of their considerable numbers, most

fig. 35. Episcopal Mission School (C-99) in about 1910. Original photograph in the possession of the *Chips* Office, Champion International, Canton, N.C.

f those attracted to the opportunities in Canton were faced by a ıortage of living quarters. Hotels and boarding houses provided a emporary solution to the problem — and a lucrative enterprise for ıdustrious residents. Most of the tourist hotels were altered to ac-ommodate more business-minded patrons, and new establishments — uch as the Old Pine Lodge (C-100) — were built as well. Around 1910, ıe Imperial Hotel (C-59) was opened on Main Street in the renovated nd expanded frame house that had been constructed by an affluent igeon River resident of the 1880s (fig. 36). A 1916 advertisement for ıe establishment provides some information about its clientele:

> Most of the leading officers and executives of the Champion Fibre Co., who happen to be "homeless" in Canton, had their adopted home at the Imperial House. These are usually from the North, know good hotel service and produce the bulk of the revenue which enables Canton to have a place where drummers can stop overnight without complaining of their table fare or sleeping accommodations.[96]

Between 1911 and 1925, a number of commercial buildings con-tructed along Main Street were designed so that the upper stories could be sed as boarding houses. Among these structures was the Brannon Building C-53) on Main Street near Academy Street and, across the railroad tracks, ıe Hipps House (C-22). Individual dwelling quarters were available like ıe Kirkpatrick Apartment House (C-24) which was constructed about 925.

Champion also provided a partial solution to the housing problem. On

g. 36. Imperial Hotel (C-59) in 1916, showing its new brick extension. Taken from the *arolina Mountaineer: Haywood County Industrial and Resort Edition*, 21 December 916, p. 39.

fig. 37. View from the southeast of Fibreville (C-15) under construction, about 1905. Original photograph in the possession of Howard and Mary Sellars, Canton, N.C.

riverside and hillside sites in the north end of town were constructed a range of houses that could be rented by mill employees. Along the Pigeon River, the company established Fibreville (C-15), a community of some sixty identical single-story weatherboarded houses, each with a four-room plan and all oriented with their gable ends toward the street (fig. 37). Erected in 1906, these small dwellings first sheltered the influx of workers who came to construct the pulp mill itself. Above Fibreville, Thomson Avenue (C-14) was cut into the hillside and was lined with two rows of wood-shingled cottages. While all of these dwellings were constructed with identical proportions, materials, and details, each house is distinguished by a slightly different arrangement of rooms. Farther up Fibreville Hill and along its crest, Champion constructed thirteen larger houes (C-1 through C-13) for members of the plant's management staff. Except for the identical Clark-Doutt (C-9) and Calvin-Hildebrand (C-10) houses, these structures were built serially with no concern for similarity of form or detail. The common understanding is that each house on Fibreville Hill was constructed especially for its original tenant.[97]

In addition to company construction, new residential developments fanned out all over town. By 1907, the hill behind W. J. Hampton's house (C-93) was parceled off into residential lots. The street by which they were all accessible was first called Hamilton Street, presumably after Hamilton, Ohio, but it was commonly known as Hampton Heights (C-69) by 1916. Pennsylvania Avenue (C-74), laid out on the hilltop overlooking the Canton

ommercial district, was partly developed by K. F. Wenz, a German immigrant who was an accountant at Champion. Wenz encouraged prospective buyers by promising that, on the hilltop site, there would be "nobody to ever cut off your view."[98] The North Canton residential section (C-17) was delineated by Newfound Street (C-18) — an old road that follows a ridge out of town and toward Newfound Gap — and by High Street, which extends along the crest of a hill overlooking a branch of Beaverdam Creek. North Main Street, Trammel Avenue, and the transverse connecting streets form a kind of low-lying geographical "sling" between the two elevated thoroughfares. Finally, at the south end of town, an old road roughly following the Pigeon River southward toward Cruso became the spine of Highland Park (C-79). This residential section, included within the town limits by 1911, has a river-plain site that permitted the most grid-like delineation of streets in Canton.[99]

Among these residential sections, construction — mostly of single-story dwellings — occurred in an unsystematic but fairly continuous way into the 1930s. Home ownership was a favored sign of prosperity, and wages at the Mill were usually substantial enough to make it possible. Moreover, in an effort to stabilize employment and encourage a sense of commitment to the community, Champion offered long-term low-interest loans to those workers who wanted to build or buy homes.[100]

Canton residents turned to popular published sources for their house designs. They often made their selections from among a variety of widely available books and magazines, ordered the necessary plans and specifications, and hired local builders to construct them. For this reason, houses in Canton look much like those that were built all over America during the early twentieth century (fig. 38). Yet, Canton's residential sections have a distinctive character. Perhaps because the new buildings of the commercial district seemed to emulate the pressed-brick fabric, sharp angles, and severe rows of windows that dominated the mill buildings, local home builders showed a strong preference for house designs that evoke rustic settings. Well into the 1920s, the most popular house type was called a "bungalow." This term now suggests images of an insubstantial cottage or summer dwelling, but in the first decades of the twentieth century, a bungalow was a house of any size that was constructed of natural, earth-colored materials — frequently combinations of masonry and wood — with a hand-finished, unpolished quality. Bungalows such as the Bryson-Hurley House on Newfound Street (C-18) and the Trostel House on Pennsylvania Avenue (C-74) are characterized by low rooflines, broad porches, and rooms of varying size that imply an informal, rustic way of living.

By the late 1920s and until about 1940, the most popular house designs imitated the rambling, vine-covered cottages and manor houses of

fig. 38. An array of Canton houses built or bought by employees of Champion Fibre Company by 1918. Taken from *The Log 5* (October, 1918), p. 4.

seventeenth-century England. Constructed entirely of brick or roughly finished stone, these Vernacular Revival houses were characterized by steep gable roofs, prominent, often front-facing chimneys, and irregular shapes that suggest the buildings were constructed in several stages. Details such as the stone grist-mill burrs in the porch foundation of the Poindexter-Cable House (C-88) made these structures appear to be venerable country houses built by well-off but unpretentious people of the pre-industrial era.

Champion — Era of Stability: 1930-1980

By 1930, Canton was a thriving industrial town — the second largest community in western North Carolina.[101] Population statistics, as well as the surviving architectural record, indicate that this remarkable growth was not sustained into the next decade. During the 1920s, a blight had destroyed all of the region's chestnut trees, and though Champion could still use the dead wood for its soda mill and tannin extract plant, the dwindling supply became increasingly expensive and difficult to acquire.[102]

An even more substantial threat to Champion's access to raw materials was the popular movement to create national forest reserves. Proposals that Appalachian timberland be acquired and preserved had been made as early as the 1880s when the region first became fashionable with affluent vacationers. By 1926, the National Forest Service had bought some two hundred fifty thousand acres of land in western North Carolina and was expressing interest in Champion's own mountain tracts.[103] Reuben B. Robertson and other Champion officials negotiated first to keep company timberland and, failing that, to retain the rights to cut timber selectively on government-owned land. An industry-government partnership in forestry management eventually did evolve on national forest properties, but the Champion crestland that

fig. 39. View from the south of the 1932 addition to the Champion Fibre Company plant at Canton. Taken from W. C. Allen, *The Annals of Haywood County, North Carolina* (Waynesville: 1935), p. 195.

was subsumed into the Great Smoky Mountain National Park became inaccessible for industrial timbering. In 1931, Champion Fiber Company sold a ninety thousand-acre tract of prime spruce timberland to the government, and Canton's sulphite mill was left bereft of its spruce reserves.[104]

Over the course of the next five years, Champion chemists redoubled their efforts — previously sporadic in the paper industry — to develop processes of manufacturing paper from other woods. Canton's was the first mill to use a sulfate process to produce high-quality paper from pine. Widely regarded as too resinous for fine papers, ubiquitous pine nevertheless proved to be much more economical as a raw material than any formerly favored species.[105] During the 1930s, Champion also used some of the capital derived from the sale of company timberland to expand the Canton plant, installing the industry's widest, fastest, and most cost-efficient paper machine (fig. 39).[106]

Such responses to apparent reverses, as well as a stability of demand for paper goods, kept Champion and Canton relatively free of the economic misfortunes normally associated with the Great Depression. By 1935, however, the pulp mill at Canton was no longer able to supply the needs of the extensive Canton and Hamilton papermaking operations. Furthermore, the North Carolina and Ohio mills — newly consolidated as the Champion Paper and Fibre Company — required new sources of pine timber. East Texas proved to have not only an abundance of pine, but also ready supplies of natural gas and processing chemicals. In 1937, Champion initiated construction of a new pulp mill in Pasadena.[107]

In a 1939 progress report, Champion reassured Canton employees that the Texas plant was designed only to complement the North Carolina operations, and that it posed no threat to existing jobs. Significant to the development of Canton, however, the report also suggested that new opportunities for advancement might be found for those employees who were willing to move south: Champion's continued impetus to expand had shifted largely away from western North Carolina.[108]

Since 1930, Canton's population has remained remarkably stable at about five thousand residents (fig. 40). Champion has continued to be the overwhelmingly dominant component of the local economy, employing just under three thousand people. Mill wages are substantial, and the community's median income is the highest in the state.[109]

The stabilization of Canton's population brought an end to commercial, institutional, and residential expansion as well. New construction continued — as it always does in prosperous communities — but its character was one of replacement and refinement rather than of growth. In 1932, three members of the Schulman family constructed a

commercial building on a vacant lot on Main Street (C-47). Like most Canton stores of the period, it has only one story above grade. In the 1930s, Canton's commercial property was not so dear that a builder must always choose to build a tall structure rather than a long one, and there was no longer a demand for auxiliary living space on unused upper floors.

Other new trends affected the commercial architecture of town. Corner lots were cleared off and newly prized as locations for gas stations (see C-33 and C-77), and at a vacant site on Park Street, Marion Sprinkle and W. H. Odum built the Colonial Theater (C-38), a structure designed to provide a comfortable setting in which to view new expensively produced feature films.

While the formation of new congregations virtually ended after 1930, many of Canton's churches — including Central Methodist (C-26), Canton Presbyterian (C-23), and First Baptist (C-65) — were rebuilt by vigorous congregations after that date. Similarly, domestic construction continued on the scattered empty lots of Canton's existing residential districts, but few new streets have been laid out and developed.

fig. 40. View of Main Street, looking west near the site of the Hampton House (C-93), in 1926. Taken from *The Log* 10 (December, 1926), p. 10.

Epilogue

A review of Canton's past clarifies how much of our community history is embodied in the old buildings around us, and how much of this story cannot be illustrated so well by any other means. Each of the structures we pass every day — even the very recent ones — represent a special perspective on how life in Canton has been, how the town has changed and grown, and how past developments still affect our lives. All buildings are the results of the same impulses — they actually contain messages from living and dead residents of Canton. By finding the meaning in each structure — say, W. F. P. McGee's pride in his expanded business (see C-60), or the hopeful sentiments of the newly organized Presbyterian congregation (see C-23) — we begin to comprehend the needs, values, and choices that shape the town where we all live.

Notes

[1]Robert C. Jurney et al., *Soil Survey of Haywood County, North Carolina* (Washington, D.C.: United States Department of Agriculture, 1925), p. 203.

[2]Bill Sharpe, "Highland Haywood," *The State,* 15 August 1953, pp. 3-4; *Floods on Pigeon River: Vicinity of Canton and Clyde, North Carolina* (Knoxville: Tennessee Valley Authority Division of Water Control Planning, 1959), p. 5.

[3]Bill Sharpe, *A New Geography of North Carolina* (Raleigh: Sharpe Publishing Company, 1954), I, p. 178.

[4]W. Clark Medford, *The Middle History of Haywood County* (Waynesville, N.C.: 1968), p. 105; Jurney, p. 203; Sharpe, *New Geography,* I, p. 176.

[5]Canton Planning Board, *Land Use Survey and Development Plan: Canton, North Carolina* (Raleigh: Department of Conservation and Development, 1963), p. 6, 35.

[6]Katherine M. Levine, "History of Canton and Haywood County," unpublished manuscript in the possession of the author, Boone, N.C., no date, p. 3; *Floods on Pigeon River,* p. 3.

[7]W. Thomas Reeves, "A History of Haywood County," Thesis: Duke University, 1937, p. 1; John Preston Arthur, *Western North Carolina: A History 1730-1913* (Asheville, N.C.: Buncombe County Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1914), p. 166.

[8]R. D. W. Connor, *North Carolina, Rebuilding an Ancient Commonwealth 1584-1925* (Chicago: American Historical Society, 1929), p. 470; W. Clark Medford, *The Early History of Haywood County* (Waynesville, N.C.: 1961), p. 6.

[9]W. C. Allen, *Centennial of Haywood County and Its County Seat, Waynesville, North Carolina* (Waynesville: Courier Printing Company, 1908), p. 19; Arthur, p. 166.

[10]Allen, *Centennial,* p. 89.

[11]Medford, *Early History,* p. 13.

[12]Ronald D Eller, *Miners, Millhands, and Mountaineers: Industrialization of the Appalachian South 1880-1930* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1982), p. 9; Reeves, p. 51.

[13]Marcus B. Simpson, Jr., "William Brewster's Exploration of the Southern Appalachian Mountains: The Journal of 1885," *North Carolina Historical Review,* 57 (Winter, 1980), p. 52.

[14]Eller, p. 3; Reeves, p. 53.

[15]E. F. Goldston et al., *Soil Survey of Haywood County, North Carolina* (Washington, D.C.: United States Department of Agriculture,

1954), p. 95; Medford, *Early History,* p. 29; Levine, p. 34.

[16]Allen, *Centennial,* p. 35; Sharpe, "Highland Haywood," p. 5.

[17]Vladimir E. Hartman, "A Cultural Study of a Mountain Community in Western North Carolina," Dissertation: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1957, p. 7; Eller, p. 9.

[18]Arthur, pp. 616-617; Reeves, p. 75, 82.

[19]Durward T. Stokes, "North Carolina and the Great Revival of 1800," *North Carolina Historical Review,* 43 (Fall, 1966), pp. 410-411; Ora Blackman, *Western North Carolina: Its Mountains and Its People* (Boone, N.C.: Appalachian Consortium Press, 1977), p. 181.

[20]J. R. Greene, "Locust Field Church, Haywood County," *Wake Forest Student,* 26 (September, 1906), p. 46; George Augustus Miller, *Cemeteries and Family Graveyards in Haywood County, North Carolina* (Waynesville, N.C.: 1979), p. 97; Levine, p. 38.

[21]"Miss Mary Holtzclaw Tells History of Canton," *Waynesville Mountaineer: Bicentennial Edition,* July, 1976, p. 2D; Levine, pp. 14-15.

[22]Medford, *Early History,* p. 76; Levine, p. 26.

[23]Levine, p. 26.

[24]Levine, pp. 14-15; Allen, *Centennial,* p. 46, 90.

[25]Rebecca Harding Davis, "By-Paths in the Mountains," *Harper's New Monthly Magazine,* 61 (September, 1880), p. 538.

[26]*Branson's North Carolina Business Directory 1869* (Raleigh: J. A. Jones, Publisher, 1869); *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory 1872* (Raleigh: L. Branson, Bookseller, 1872).

[27]*Branson's North Carolina Business Directory 1877-1878* (Raleigh: L. Branson, Publisher and Bookseller, 1878).

[28]Aurelia Sharp Seaman, personal interview, 11 April 1980.

[29]Eller, p. 41, 45; Reeves, p. 93.

[30]Margaret W. Morris, "The Completion of the Western North Carolina Railroad: Politics of Concealment," *North Carolina Historical Review,* 52, (Summer, 1975), pp. 261-266.

[31]Arthur, p. 477; Canton Planning Board, p. 7.

[32]Morris, p. 282; Arthur, p. 478.

[33]"Canton, The Industrial City of the Mountains," *Carolina Mountaineer: Haywood County Industrial and Resort Edition,* 21 December 1916, p. 5; Allen, *Centennial,* p. 90; Morris, p. 266.

[34]Allen, *Centennial,* p. 90; Levine, p. 15.

[35]*North Carolina Business Directory 1884* (Raleigh: L. Branson, Publisher, 1884).

[36]Carey Teague Wells, Sr., personal interview, 12 April 1980; Mary Wells Freeman, personal interview, 25 August 1983.

[37]*Branson's North Carolina Business Directory 1896* (Raleigh: Levi

Branson, Office Publisher, 1896).

[38]"W. F. P. McGee, Merchant," *Carolina Mountaineer: Haywood County Industrial and Resort Edition,* 21 December 1916, p. 60.

[39]Wilma Dykeman and Jim Stokely, *Highland Homeland: The People of Great Smokies* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1978), p. 120; Carl Alvin Schenck, *The Birth of Forestry in America: Biltmore Forest School 1898-1913* (Santa Cruz: Forest History Society, 1974), p. 53; Eller, p. 101.

[40]Reuben B. Robertson, "Some Early Stages in Champion's Development in North Carolina," essay in unpublished manuscript: "Reminiscences of Champion Paper and Fibre Company," on file at the United States Forest Service Extension Service Library, Asheville, N.C., no date, no pagination.

[41]*Branson's North Carolina Business Directory 1890* (Raleigh: Levi Branson, Office Publisher, 1889).

[42]Eller, p. 101.

[43]"Canton, The Industrial City," p. 5.

[44]*Branson's 1890.*

[45]Sanborne Map Company, *Canton North Carolina,* (New York: 1907).

[46]"Canton, The Industrial City," p. 5; Allen, *Centennial,* p. 90.

[47]H. R. Meier, "Papermaking," *The Champion Magazine,* January 1981, p. 8; Eller, pp. 108-109.

[48]*This is Champion: A Proud Name in American Industry* (Hamilton, Ohio: Champion Paper and Fibre Company, 1954), p. 7; Meier, pp. 4-5.

[49]Elwood R. Maunder and Elwood L. Demmon, "Trailblazing in the Southern Paper Industry: An Interview with Reuben B. Robertson," *Forest History,* 5 (Spring, 1961), p. 6; Meier, pp. 5-6.

[50]Schenck, pp. 148-149; Robertson, "Some Early Stages."

[51]*The Story of the Canton Division* (Canton, N.C.: Champion Paper and Fibre Company, 1948), p. 6; Carroll E. Williams, "A Well Rounded Out Paper Making Industry in Western North Carolina: A Marvel of Efficiency," *Manufacturers Record,* 29 March 1923, p. 2; Robertson, "Some Early Stages."

[52]"Canton, The Industrial City," p. 5; Levine, p. 22.

[53]Seaman, interview; Reuben B. Robertson, "Canton's 'Big Four'," in "Reminiscences."

[54]John Parris, "Town Founded on Paper," *Asheville Citizen,* 23 June 1956.

[55]Eller, pp. 123-124; Schenck, p. 114.

[56]*This is Champion,* p. 36.

[57]Reuben B. Robertson, "Some International Incidents," in

"Reminiscences."

[58]Meier, p. 11; Maunder and Demmon, p. 10.

[59]Meier, p. 9; Allen, *Centennial,* p. 92; Reeves, p. 103.

[60]Meier, p. 9; Maunder and Demmon, p. 7.

[61]Schenck, p. 150.

[62]Allen, *Centennial,* p. 92; Maunder and Demmon, p. 7.

[63]W. C. Allen, *The Annals of Haywood County, North Carolina* (Waynesville, N.C.: 1935), p. 176; Medford, *Middle History,* p. 79; Eller, p. 109.

[64]W. Clark Medford, *Mountain People, Mountain Times* (Waynesville, N.C.: 1963), p. 113; "A Complete Paper Making Industry at Canton, North Carolina," *Charlotte Observer,* 27 July 1927; *The Story of the Canton Division,* p. 6.

[65]W. J. Damtoft, "A Western North Carolina Industry," *North Carolina Teacher,* 2 (February, 1926), p. 170; Williams, p. 3.

[66]Medford, *Mountain People,* p. 113; Maunder and Demmon, p. 7; *The Story of the Canton Division,* p. 7.

[67]Eller, p. xx.

[68]Eller, p. xxi, 230; Reuben B. Robertson, "Mark Reece," in "Reminiscences."

[69]William M. Lehmkuhl, "Planning for Growth in Our Canton Community," public lecture, Canton, N.C., 16 March 1964, p. 1; Reeves, p. 59.

[70]Reuben B. Robertson, "The Canton Pulp Mills," in "Reminiscences."

[71]"Canton's Champion Fibre 'Cabinet'," *Carolina Mountaineer: Haywood County Industrial and Resort Edition,* 21 December 1916, p. 49.

[72]Mary Furness, personal interview, 12 May 1981.

[73]Reeves, p. 11.

[74]"Haywood, The Banner County," *Carolina Mountaineer: Haywood County Industrial and Resort Edition,* 21 December 1916, p. 3.

[75]Reuben B. Robertson, untitled essay from "Reminiscences of Champion Paper and Fibre Company."

[76]Robertson, untitled essay from "Reminiscences."

[77]Sharpe, *New Geography,* I, p. 190; Reuben B. Robertson, "Some of Champion's Firsts," in "Reminiscences."

[78]Reuben B. Robertson, "Champion's Corporate Image," and "*The Log*," in "Reminiscences."

[79]*Carolina Mountaineer: Haywood County Industrial and Resort Edition,* 21 December 1916, pp. 1-62.

[80]Sanborne Map Company, *Canton, North Carolina,* (New York:

1912).

[81]Daisey Hurley, personal interview, 30 January 1981; Dutch McCracken Wells, personal interview, 31 October 1980; Carey Wells, Sr., interview.

[82]"Canton Electric and Telephone Company," *Carolina Mountaineer: Haywood County Industrial and Resort Edition,* 21 December 1916, p. 51; Sanborne Map, 1912.

[83]"W. F. P. McGee," p. 60.

[84]Sanborne Map Company, *Canton, North Carolina,* (New York: 1930).

[85]Sanborne Map, 1907; Allen, *Centennial,* p. 90.

[86]Levine, p. 70, 97.

[87]Sanborne Map, 1930; Levine, p. 70.

[88]Furness, interview; "The Champion Hospital," *The Log,* 4 (June, 1917), p. 3.

[89]Levine, p. 56, 79.

[90]Levine, p. 74; Allen, *Centennial,* p. 90.

[91]"The New Champion 'Y': Mr. M. C. Salassa in Charge," *The Log,* 6 (July 1919), pp. 1-2, 4; Reuben B. Robertson, "The Champion Y," in "Reminiscences."

[92]Hartman, p. 8; Eller p. xxiii.

[93]Levine, p. 93.

[94]"Canton Presbyterian Church," *Our Mountain Work,* 63 (June, 1972), p. 1.

[95]Levine, p. 100; "The Champion Hospital," p. 3.

[96]"The Imperial Hotel, Canton: One of the State's Best Two Dollar Hotels," *Carolina Mountaineer: Haywood County Industrial and Resort Edition,* 21 December 1916, p. 39.

[97]Furness, interview.

[98]"The Prettiest Views in Canton," *Carolina Mountaineer: Haywood County Industrial and Resort Edition,* 21 December 1916, p. 41.

[99]Levine, p. 55.

[100]Williams, p. 4; "Home Builders Agreement Plan," *The Log,* 9 (January, 1927), p. 10; Robertson, "Some of Champion's Firsts."

[101]Reeves, p. 54.

[102]Maunder and Demmon, p. 7; Robertson, "The Canton Pulp Mills."

[103]Eller, p. 114; Maunder and Demmon, p. 10.

[104]Meier, p. 9; Dykeman and Stokely, p. 144; Maunder and Demmon, p. 9, 12; Reuben B. Robertson, "The Park and Payrolls Too," in "Reminiscences."

[105]Meier, p. 10; Maunder and Demmon, pp. 8-9; Robertson, "The

Park and Payrolls Too."

[106]"$1,500,000 Paper Plant Built in Record Time," *Manufacturers Record,* 12 May 1932, pp. 20-22; C. W. Hardin, "Champion Changed Way of Life in Canton," *Waynesville Mountaineer: Bicentennial Edition,* July, 1976, p. 2C; Meier, p. 10.

[107]*This is Champion,* p. 15; Meier, p. 11; Maunder and Demmon, p. 10.

[108]*The Champion Family Makes Progress* (Hamilton, Ohio: Champion Paper and Fibre Company, 1939), p. 9, 13.

[109]Joyce Briggs, *Initial Housing Element: Canton, North Carolina* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Local Affairs, 1970), p. 1; Paul Pleasants, "Canton — a Little Industrial Giant," *The State,* 15 August 1953, pp. 8-9; Canton Planning Board, p. 8.

Catalog of Sites

C-1 Kerr-Fincher House
1 Terrace Drive

Like all of the dwellings on Fibreville Hill, the Kerr-Fincher House was built by the Champion Fibre Company for men with professional or technical skills who came to Canton to work for the Mill. It was constructed around 1910 for a Champion engineer, possibly David J. Kerr, who was in residence by 1922, when it was recorded that Mrs. Kerr won a company-sponsored contest for beautiful lawns.

Beginning in 1908, Kerr served as head of the Champion Electrical Department. Born in Ireland in 1873, he moved to Atlanta some fourteen years later. He studied electrical engineering, and in 1895, he was placed in charge of construction for the Cotton States International Exposition in Atlanta. Following that project, Kerr became supervisor of the Railway and Light Company in Rome, Georgia. Just before his arrival in Canton, Kerr worked with the Tennessee Copper Company in Ducktown, Tennessee.

According to the 1937 Canton directory, John R. Jamison was also a tenant of this house. By 1949, when Champion began to sell off most of its residential property, the house was occupied by Harry Fincher, a buyer for the Champion Employees' Store (C-101).

Located on a prominent bluff that was graded for use as a dwelling site, the Kerr-Fincher House is a one-story framed and weatherboarded bungalow. It was covered, probably during the 1940s, in asbestos shingles. As the popular low-roofed dwelling form is designed to do, the Kerr-Fincher House hovers close to the site, blending into the surrounding landscape with the help of lush plantings. Like many other contemporary houses in Canton, the Kerr-Fincher House was landscaped by the Champion Nursery, which once occupied the broad open yard on the side of Fibreville Hill.

C-2 Furness House
2 Terrace Drive

Earliest of all the houses on Fibreville Hill is the Furness House, which was constructed by the Champion Fibre Company in 1903. It was inhabited successively by Maurice Daily, R. J. Sprang (see C-12), and Tom Osborne before 1916, when the Furness family moved in.

Tommie Furness, master mason at Champion, was born in 1884 in Manchester, England, where he acquired expertise as a mason and contractor. In 1900, because of limited employment opportunities, he decided to emigrate to South Africa. During an excursion to New York City, however, he saw a newspaper announcement that men were needed to construct the Champion pulp mill in Canton, and he arrived in North Carolina in 1903. In Champion's employ, he went to Alabama to acquire a supply of bricks and to Tennessee to secure quantities of lime for mortar. When factory construction was initiated in 1906, Furness was in charge of all masonry, including that of the original smelters, the lining of the digesters, and the major smokestack, still a visually prominent part of the factory. Furness worked on construction and maintenance at the Mill until 1947, when he became plant safety officer, a position he held until he retired.

The Furness House is a modest one-and-a-half story frame dwelling. Bevel-edged weatherboarding originally sheathed the L-form house, and wood shingles were used to cover the roof, dormers, and gable ends. An open front porch was original to the house. In 1930, the southeast angle of the house was enclosed by a sunporch. In recent years, the house has been sided with asbestos shingles.

urness House in about 1916. Original photograph in the possession of Mary Furness, anton, N.C.

C-3 Kenny-Dennett House
3 Terrace Drive

This substantial two-story framed and shingled house was built by Champion Fibre Company around 1905, shortly after the Furness House (see C-2) was completed. The original occupants are not known, but in 1907, the L. S. Kenny family moved in. Mrs. Helma Kenny Dennett remembers that their furniture and household goods were stored in one of the small houses in Fibreville (see C-15) while this house on Terrace Drive was being prepared. Following the Kenny tenancy, Reuel Dennett rented the house. An engineer from Freeport, Maine, Dennett married Helma Kenny, and the couple lived in the house until about 1942.

In 1920, 1921, and again in 1926, the Kenny-Dennett House was recognized for its well kept lawn. According to *The Log,* Champion's monthly newspaper, "We appreciated the real interest which some of the people take in beautifying their lawns and the General Manager has shown his appreciation by giving substantial prizes."

C-4 Damtoft-Mease House
4 Terrace Drive

According to local sources, this house was built for company forester Walter J. Damtoft, who was hired by Champion Fibre Company in 1920. A native of Connecticut and a graduate of the Yale School of Forestry, Damtoft had been employed by the United States Forest Service since 1911. His position with Champion made him the first professional forester to work with a southern industry. Responsible for Champion's extensive conservation and reforestation programs, Damtoft represented the company's unusual commitment to resources management during an era when most industries took an extractive, exhaustive approach to the natural assets of the Appalachian South.

As was the case with other prominent figures at the Mill, Damtoft gradually acquired additional business interests (see C-21) and eventually moved to Asheville. By 1937, this two-story, square-plan, framed and stuccoed house was the residence of Hugh Mease, a traffic manager at Champion, and his family.

C-5 Bohnsdahl House
103 Skyland Drive

This two-story house has been extensively altered since it was built sometime around 1905. Originally designed as a duplex with one dwelling unit on each floor, the house is two rooms wide, with long rows of rooms extending away from the street. The original cladding was beveled weatherboards, and open porches once sheltered the front of the house.

Built originally for the Helders and Hildebrands (see C-10), the house was subsequently occupied by the Dial, Cosby, and Mease (see C-4) families. In 1936, the Bohnsdahls moved into the first-floor unit of the house. Gunnar W. Bohnsdahl, a native of Wisconsin, began work at Champion in the paper inspection department. He later shifted to paper production.

Naomi Bohnsdahl, longtime teacher and librarian with the Beaverdam and Canton school systems, remembers the years that Champion owned the houses on Fibreville Hill. Rents were remarkably low, and utilities were free. Grass and shrubbery were tended. Seasonal and annual tasks such as hanging screens and cleaning radiators were all regularly performed. Houses were painted once every three years.

In 1949, the Bohnsdahls bought this duplex from Champion and converted it to a single-family dwelling. Recent changes include the addition of asbestos siding, enclosure of the front porches, and construction of a one-story rear ell.

C-6 Stone House
102 Skyland Drive

Built somewhat later than most of the other houses on Fibreville Hill, the Stone House is an example of the Vernacular Revival style, which was popular for residential architecture during the 1920s and 1930s. Such features as the wood-shingle siding, steeply pitched roof, advanced entrance bay, and round-arched side porch connect this house to a kind of twentieth-century domestic design that emulated the rustic dwelling forms of the English countryside.

Champion Fibre Company built this house around 1933 for Cedrick Stone, who was hired as superintendent of repairs and alterations. In later years, it served briefly as the home of the company physician.

C-7 Roberts-Starkey House
104 Skyland Drive

This two-story, square-plan house was probably built around 1915. Located near the crest of Fibreville Hill, the house is constructed of pressed brick with molded concrete details, a straightforward combination that gives the house an austere appearance.

In 1921, when this house was recognized by the Champion company newspaper for lawn improvements, it was occupied by W. E. Roberts. By 1937, it had become the residence of H. Gordon Starkey, an engineer at the Mill.

C-8 Jentz-Crute House
106 Skyland Drive

According to longtime residents of Fibreville Hill, this house was built for Carl Jentz, who arrived in North Carolina in 1907. Formerly the head of the sulphite mill of Laurentide Paper Company in Quebec, Jentz was hired to supervise Champion's sulphite plant at Canton.

A second resident of the house was W. R. Crute, another prominent supervisor at the Mill. In the 1930s, Crute was sent to Houston, Texas, where he was largely responsible for the construction of a new Champion pulp mill.

This substantial two-story, framed and weatherboarded house has a symmetrical three-bay facade, a balanced double-pile plan, and a steeply pitched pyramidal roof. These features readily accommodate the present Colonial Revival appearance of the building. Originally, however, the regularity of the Jentz-Crute House design was offset by a low, one-story porch that extended around two sides of the house, and a recessed porch opening on the second story where the front central window is located. Such details as the columned porches, balustrades, and louvered blinds are all recent additions.

C-9 Clark-Doutt House
108 Skyland Drive

Construction details suggest that this two-story house and the identical one next door (see C-10) were among the very earliest houses on Fibreville Hill. Both were probably standing by 1907. Built of light wood framing members, the house was originally clad with weatherboards. The basic L form of the house plan has not been significantly altered by later additions, though an enclosed porch has been built onto the west end, and asbestos siding has been added.

Probably the first resident of the house was Joe Clark. Like David Kerr (see C-1), Clark was a native of Ireland who immigrated to New York with his parents at an early age. Clark learned steamfitting in Troy, New York and ran the steam department of a pulp mill in Mechanicsville, New York for some twenty-five years before moving to Canton in 1907. After assisting in the Mill's construction, he took charge of the wood yard and the soda mill, which converted chestnut chips to pulp for paper. The 1916 pictorial edition of the *Carolina Mountaineer* claimed that "what [Clark] doesn't know about soda chips has been torn out of the pulp."

During at least part of its history, the Clark-Doutt House has been divided into two living units. The Edward Geiers (see C-59), William Whitling, and William H. Williamson were all among the tenants of the house. By 1942, Champion chemist Fred Doutt was in residence, and it was he who bought the property when Champion offered it for sale in 1949.

C-10 Calvin-Hildebrand House
110 Skyland Drive

Unlike the other individually constructed company houses on Fibreville Hill, the Calvin-Hildebrand and Clark-Doutt (see C-9) houses were built at the same time and according to identical specifications. Only a north shed addition and dark paint colors distinguish this house from the adjacent one.

James Calvin, a papermaker, is the earliest known resident of the house. By 1942, it was occupied by Mrs. C. A. Hildebrand and her three children. Clyde Hildebrand was a prominent employee of Champion Fibre Company by at least 1916. In that year, he was listed as one of three members of the Canton town council.

C-11 Wood-York House
112 Skyland Drive

This one-and-a-half story bungalow combines the desired cottage-like appearance with a substantial quantity of square footage by emphasizing width and breadth of plan over height of elevation. Indeed, the porch roof of this low brick house almost seems to touch the ground.

Local sources indicate that this house was built by Champion Fibre Company for M. C. Salassa, who came to Canton in 1919 to supervise the construction and operation of the Champion Y.M.C.A. (C-97). By 1924, however, the house was occupied by Albert D. Wood, superintendent of the sulphite mill and editor of *The Log*. Son of a New York clergyman, Wood studied in night school to become a pulp mill foreman. He worked in a number of pulp and paper mills, mostly in the state of New York. In 1910, a vacation trip to Canton resulted in Wood's taking a position with Champion. In later years, this house on Skyland Drive was occupied by George Hively and, subsequently, by Phillip D. York.

C-12 Sprang House
114 Skyland Drive

This one-story frame house had a plain four-room plan and wide porch under the prominent hipped roof. Champion Fibre Company constructed the dwelling for Rudolph and Della Sprang, who were residents of the house until at least the 1940s. Over the years, the original brick foundation has been replaced with concrete, and the earlier weatherboarding has been covered with asbestos shingles.

C-13 Sechrest House
116 Skyland Drive

Since 1941, this house has been the residence of J. R. Sechrest who, after studying chemical engineering at North Carolina State University, came to Canton in 1928 to work for Champion. The framed and weatherboarded Bungalow style dwelling was constructed early in the twentieth century, probably around 1915. Like most of the other houses on Fibreville Hill, it was used by a number of Champion employees, especially during the early years when the factory was rapidly growing and changing. In 1922, the W. J. Dial family was in residence. By 1937, Phillip D. York (see C-11) was living here. George Hively was also a resident, and it is said that the house was built for him.

C-14 Thomson Avenue Group
Thomson Avenue

The company houses lining Terrace and Skyland drives are unusual in that they were built one at a time and according to individual house designs. More commonly, factories concerned with housing their employees constructed quantities of identical dwellings including, in some cases, elaborate houses for supervisors and managers.

Around 1920, after the larger houses on Fibreville Hill were all built, Champion Fibre Company cut Thomson Avenue into the slope of the hill and constructed this group of thirteen cottages in one undertaking. Though identical in proportion, construction materials, and details, about four different plans were used, allowing for some variety in the forms of the houses.

Built of light wood frames set on concrete-block foundations, the Thomson Avenue houses were all originally sided with wood shingles. Gable roofs intersect to shelter both the main block of each house and a number of porches and short wings. Interior brick stove flues accommodate the original heating units. Before various remodelings, six-over-one sash and plain wood trim were common to all of the dwellings. Sawn wood brackets under the eaves and in the angles of the porches are shared decorative details that associate these thirteen dwellings with the early twentieth-century popularity of the unpretentious, rustic bungalow.

4 Thomson Avenue.

Original paint colors were apparently gray, brown, and green.

During the years of Champion ownership, occupants of these house changed somewhat more frequently than did those of the houses on Terrac and Skyland drives. According to early town directories, residents of thes houses tended to be skilled workers with small families. In 1949, the house on Thomson Avenue were all sold to individual members of the community

7 Thomson Avenue.

C-15 Fibreville Group
Woodview Drive (vicinity)

Located on the west bank of the Pigeon River, Fibreville is a residential community of workers' housing, most of which is contemporary with the original 1906 construction of the Champion Fibre Company pulp mill. The principal avenue, once Fibreville's Main Street and now more commonly known as Woodview Drive, runs parallel to the river. Originally, four cross streets, Avenues A, B, C, and D, extended west from the major street along the narrow plain that flanks the Pigeon River, ending abruptly at the base of Fibreville Hill. In subsequent developments, Avenue D has disappeared, an alley that runs parallel to Main Street was created, widened, and finally named Willow Drive, and Avenues A, B, and C were renamed White Pine, Balsam, and Redwood respectively.

View from the east of Fibreville, about 1910. Original photograph in the possession of the *Chips* Office, Champion International, Canton, N.C.

The builder in charge of the original Fibreville group was Thomas Marr. According to the 1916 pictorial edition of the *Carolina Mountaineer,* Marr was a man "who [looked] ordinarily like a laborer but [was] a man of culture, high intelligence, and unusual executive ability." Reared in western Virginia, Marr worked first in railroad construction and repair shops, later with an electrical company. He eventually settled in Buena Vista, Virginia, where he was associated with a tannin extract plant. In 1905, before

construction of the Mill was undertaken, Marr moved to Canton and began work supervising the construction of the Fibreville housing. Following completion of the factory, Marr became chief of Champion's tannin extract operation.

Some twenty-six of the earliest thirty-nine Fibreville houses have survived. Set on brick piers, these framed and weatherboarded houses are oriented with their gable ends toward the streets. Front porches and rear

Thomas Marr, supervisor in charge of construction of Fibreville, in about 1910. Original photograph in the possession of Howard and Mary Sellars, Canton, N.C.

detached woodsheds are original to these dwellings. Though they appear to be one-room-wide "shotgun" houses, each of the buildings is actually two rooms in width: the result is a four-room plan.

By 1912, all of the Fibreville houses had small rear additions that included bathroom facilities. Also by that date, the original wood-shingle roofing was replaced by asbestos shingles, a change that provided greater fire protection. In later years, the uniformly gray-painted weatherboarding was replaced by asbestos shingles that were tinted in one of several pastel colors.

9 Woodview Drive.

With isolated exceptions, no major additions were made to the Fibreville community until around 1920, probably at the same time that the Thomson Avenue houses (C-14) were built. Some sixteen new houses were constructed along Woodview Drive, and ten of them survive today. Unlike the earlier dwellings, these one-story framed and wood-sheathed houses are oriented so that their long walls face the street. All of the houses are two rooms wide. Some of the houses are one-room-deep, gable-roofed structures with an additional room enclosed in a rear ell. The other buildings are all two rooms deep, and the total of four rooms are sheltered under a broad gable or pyramidal roof. Some of these newer houses were originally weatherboarded. Others, like the Thomson Avenue houses, were clad with wood shingles.

For many years, Fibreville was an important housing resource for many

of Champion's employees. At its most dense, the community had sixty-one houses, most occupied by the families of general laborers who rented the dwellings "for nominal sums." The lots around the houses were apparently left to the care of the tenants, who might receive praise or cash prizes for planting, fencing, or otherwise grooming the Fibreville yards.

During the 1950s, Champion sold the Fibreville houses to their occupants. As the low-lying neighborhood was subject to flooding, a number of the houses were subsequently moved — either to more elevated locations in Fibreville itself or to other sites in Canton. In recent years, Fibreville houses have been demolished at an increased rate. If many more of these dwellings are destroyed, this important workers' community will lose its original character and cohesion.

View from the southeast of the intersection of Woodview Drive and Rosewood Street.

C-16 Giant Dollar Store
Lankford's Grocery
120 North Main Street

This corner, formed by the oblique junction of North Main, Burnett, and Sheppard streets, has been the site of a North Canton community store for as long as anyone can remember. A store operated by the Burnett family was located here many years ago.

In 1943, Howard, Leonard, and Marie Sanford bought this site from Harvey Silvers and opened a store in an old building that was located on the property. Two years later, they constructed this two-story, pressed-brick building and opened it as Sandy's Supermarket, touting it as the first supermarket in town. They changed the name to the Giant Dollar Store in 1952.

During the 1960s, the Sanfords expanded this business intersection with the construction of a shopping center, laundromat, and carwash, all located across the street. In 1970, the Sanfords sold the store to Hubert Pressley, who in turn sold it to the Lankfords in 1976.

C-17 North Canton Group
North Main Street (vicinity)

This section of three square blocks is a good representative sample of the North Canton community and how it developed after about 1900. Bounding the group on the east is North Main Street, which follows an old secondary roadbed leading from the lowland around the Pigeon River and the mill site north toward Newfound Gap. To the west, the North Canton Group is bounded by High Street, another old road that follows the ridge separating the Beaverdam Creek area from the Pigeon River valley in which most of Canton has developed. Between 1910 and 1930 — Canton's most significant period of growth — First, Second, and Third streets were laid out so that they extend from east to west between these two old thoroughfares. Scattered across the area are a few houses that clearly date from the time when this was a rural landscape. They have been interspersed with bungalows that date from the 1910s and 1920s. Vernacular Revival and Colonial Revival dwellings were constructed during the 1930s and 1940s. Especially along the ridge, ranch houses have been added since the 1950s. In this gradual way, a country hillside was surveyed, partitioned, and developed into one of Canton's more substantial suburbs.

77 and 79 North Main Street.

91 and 93 North Main Street.

C-18 Newfound Street Group
Newfound Street

The Newfound Street Group includes thirty-nine houses on the most densely populated section of Newfound Street, between Trammell Avenue and Blalock Street. Newfound is a major early road that extended from the valley of the old Pigeon River community northward toward Newfound Gap. Like North Main and High streets (see C-17), it was once an open country road bordered by farms and woodlands. Local tradition maintains that the southernmost half mile of Newfound Street passed by the Reno Methodist Campground (see C-26). The street rises along a steep ridge from which the North Canton area is visible to the west. Toward the southeast, there is a dramatic view of the sparsely settled Hominy Creek valley and, beyond that, the highlands around Dutch Cove. Most of the houses along this section of Newfound Street were built between 1910 and 1930.

67 and 71 Newfound Street.

Pegram-Sellars House
76 Newfound Street

Constructed to fit a site that falls sharply away from the street, this pressed- and textured-brick Vernacular Revival house was designed in imitation of English country cottages with their thatched roofs and casement windows. Local builder David H. Clark constructed this house for

Dr. R. W. S. Pegram — once a member of the North Carolina General Assembly. His daughter and son-in-law, Mary and Carter L. Rhinehart, continued to live in the house until 1943. Howard and Mary Sellars acquired the house in 1954.

Pegram-Sellars House.

Bryson-Hurley House
75 Newfound Street

This low-roofed brick dwelling has many of the characteristic rustic details associated with the Bungalow style, but its prominent ridgetop site and substantial size make the designation "cottage" or "bungalow" seem inappropriate. Built in 1926 by Dr. F. M. Davis (see C-19) for his daughter and son-in-law Bill Bryson, this house has been the residence of James and Daisey Hurley since 1945.

Wells House
44 Newfound Street

This one-story dwelling is constructed of river rock, a plentiful novelty material that was especially popular in Canton between 1910 and 1940. In 1930, R. R. Gaddis (see C-63 and C-90) built this house for Jim and Dutch Wells (see C-94). It was extensively remodeled by the Wells family in the 1960s.

Bryson-Hurley House.

Wells House.

C-19 Davis-Ramsey House
41 Newfound Street

Dr. Francis M. Davis was an important early resident of this house. Member of one of Haywood County's prominent pioneer families, Davis was also a respected citizen of Canton's professional community. Around 1924, he bought this one-story house, which was then a plain framed and weatherboarded structure. The turn-of-the-century dwelling has a T-shaped arrangement of rooms, although the asymmetrical configuration is obscured by a balanced pair of gables on the front. Sometime after 1930, Davis had the house encased in river-rock veneer, giving it a weighty, more substantial appearance. Dr. Davis lived in the house until the middle 1940s. It has since become the home of Davis' daughter and her husband, Hazel Ramsey, who made significant contributions as mayor of Canton.

C-20 First Methodist Church
27 Newfound Street

A local history indicates that the First Methodist Church was originally organized around the turn of this century, but the congregation was formally established as an affiliate of the northern sector of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1909. This building, now the earliest surviving church structure in Canton, was constructed in that same year.

Built of brick in the cross plan that is still popular for church architecture, the First Methodist Church is embellished with Gothic Revival details such as salient buttresses and lancet, or pointed, openings. A corner bell tower with a steep pyramidal roof is the focal point of the entire design and provides special emphasis for the entrance. A rustic touch appears at the eaves, where rafter ends are exposed and finished with ogee curves.

Though the interior of the church was remodeled in 1946 and again in 1959, many important decorative details, such as the opalescent stained glass, have been retained. Like the Gothic Revival design, opalescent glass was a favorite embellishment for the church buildings that enthusiastic congregations constructed or remodeled in the early part of this century.

C-21 Canton Graded School
North Canton School
70 School Street

In 1907 while the Mill was still under construction, the Canton community approved a $65,000 bond issue for improvement of the major streets and construction of a school. This building, the first public school in Canton, was undertaken that same year by Canton builder Joseph M. Wray (see C-29 and C-46). It was completed for a total cost of $25,000.

Situated on a steep hillside that overlooks the Canton business district, this two-story, H-plan school building is set on a concrete foundation that has been scored to resemble ashlar. Constructed of brick to two stories, the building's long gridlike rows of classroom windows are framed with jack arches, advanced brick piers, and beltcourses. Segmental-arched doorways are positioned at the centers of three facades.

The Canton Graded School, as it was originally called, filled most of the community's educational needs until 1922, when money was appropriated for the construction of a second grade school on Pennsylvania Avenue (C-73) and a separate high school building (see C-85) on this North Canton site. The latter building has since been demolished. In recent years, the old North Canton School building has been used for storage by Champion International.

C-22 Canton Laundry and Ice Plant (site)
Leader Department Store
Community Store
196 Main Street

This substantial brick building is not the first commercial structure t stand on this prominent corner near the north extremity of the Canto business district. In 1910, R. H. Sorrells and S. H. McNeilly built a one story ice plant on this site. Their operation could provide three to four ton of ice each day. The following year, they added a second-story stea laundry, demonstrating their faith in Canton's potential for growth with th words: "a city without a laundry and ice plant would be an anomaly." B 1912, bottling works and cold storage facilities were also housed in th building.

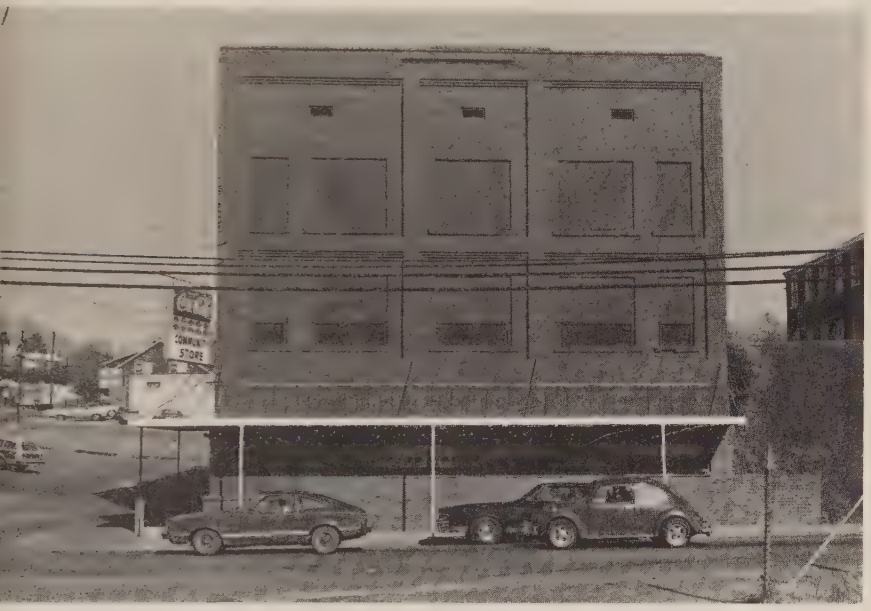
R. H. Sorrells was managing this operation alone in 1915, when th plant was incorporated with Sorrells and J. O. Plott (see C-29) as principa partners. Between 1915 and 1920, this two-story, gable-roofed buildin was demolished and replaced by the present structure.

"Quality Merchandise at Reasonable Prices" were promised by a 194 advertisement for the Leader Department Store, the original occupant o this three-story parapet-walled commercial building. Robert Hipps, a nativ of the Crabtree area of Haywood County, had this building constructed

Canton Laundry and Ice Plant in 1916. Taken from the *Carolina Mountaineer: Haywoo County Industrial and Resort Edition,* 21 December 1916, p. 50.

Above the store, he operated a boarding facility known as the Hipps House. During Canton's years of rapid expansion, there were several such boarding houses around town (see C-53 and C-59), all accommodating the many newcomers who found work at Champion.

Guy Hipps continued to run the family business until about 1950. Thereafter, Fred Wright bought the building and ran the Community Store at this location for many years.



C-23 Canton Presbyterian Church
190 Main Street

The Canton Presbyterian Church was organized in 1904 by a commission of the Presbytery of Asheville. In that same year, construction of the first church building was initiated on this site: it was a low, framed and weatherboarded, pyramidal-roofed structure with an advanced narthex and bell tower. Lancet openings distinguished the design. Located on a prominent hillside that faces west toward the river, this simple church is an important referent in many early views of the Canton area.

In 1937, when the initially tiny congregation had acquired over a hundred members, the present church building was begun. Plans for this striking Colonial Revival structure were drawn by the church pastor, Rev. George Bradley Hammond, who was also trained as an architect. The form of the church emulates Federal style church designs, of about 1800, but the details are much more angular and severe. The glazed-header Flemish-bond brickwork is derived from masonry architecture of the colonial era which was enjoying renewed popularity during the 1930s, partly as a result of the restoration of Williamsburg, Virginia. The most striking detail of the Canton Presbyterian Church is the perforated rising-sun motif in the tympanum of the portico. In 1958, a Sunday school wing was added to the transept of this important community landmark.

C-24 Kirkpatrick Apartments
Camelot Apartments
3 Newfound Street

Located at the corner of Main and Newfound streets, this 1925 apartment building was known for many years as the Kirkpatrick Apartments. The straightforward brick and concrete design clearly expresses the building's contents: commodious living quarters that provide privacy and efficiency. Unlike the boarding houses with their shared facilities and transient inhabitants, this apartment building could promise a degree of autonomy normally associated with single-family structures.

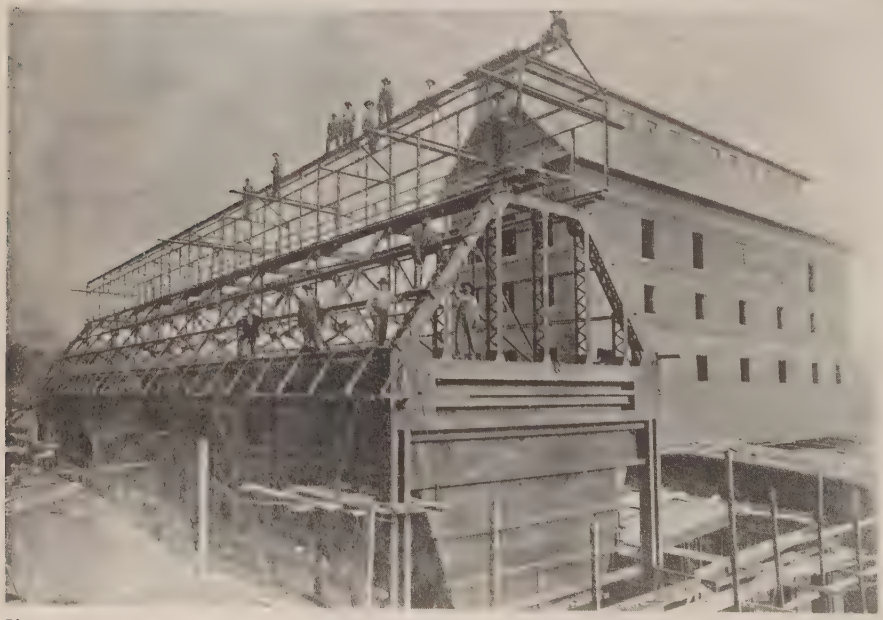
The design of the Camelot Apartment building is crisp and devoid of historical allusions. Such details as concrete quoins, sills, and voussoirs add a geometric, rather than a classical look, to the angular textured brick structure. That space is used economically throughout the design is suggested by the row of dwelling units in the rear garage building. The original brick and concrete finish of this dependency has been obscured by layers of stucco and brown paint.

C-25 Champion Fibre Company
Champion Paper and Fibre Company
Champion Papers
Champion International

Dominating the valley of the Pigeon River is the paper-making plant of Champion International. While it is in reality a massive conglomeration of kilns, digesters, extractors, paper machines, and the machinery necessary to power them, the Champion mill is also one monolithic industrial site — a constant visual and aural component of life in Canton for some seventy-five years.

The plant began operation in 1908 as Champion Fibre Company, a subsidiary of the Champion Coated Paper Company of Hamilton, Ohio. This parent company had been established by Peter G. Thomson in 1893 to produce the high-grade coated paper necessary for the execution of the recently invented half-tone process for printing illustrations. The Canton mill was planned and built to provide Thomson's Ohio operations with a steady supply of wood pulp manufactured from western North Carolina spruce and chestnut.

By the early 1920s, the Champion corporation had expanded so that the Canton mill could itself produce several grades of paper — most from readily available pine. In 1936, the Champion companies merged to form



Champion Fibre Company mill under construction, about 1907. Original photograph in the possession of Howard and Mary Sellars, Canton, N.C.

the Champion Paper and Fibre Company, and a new pulp mill was constructed in Pasadena, Texas, to keep all of the North Carolina and Ohio paper-making operations supplied. At that time, the Canton mill was considered to be the largest paper plant in the world. In recent years, Champion Papers has been party to several mergers — notably with U.S. Plywood and Hoerner Waldorf, a manufacturer of paper packaging. The company's most recent designation is Champion International.

Champion Fibre Company about 1920. Original photograph in the possession of the *Chips* Office, Champion International, Canton, N.C.

1932 addition to the Mill.

View from the south of Champion's Canton plant.

Champion Main Office
Main Street

The design of this two-story brick office building is crisp and angular — most of the ornamentation is executed in geometric patterns of pressed brick punctuated by molded squares of concrete. The sandstone watertable and cornice provided the only historical allusions until the wooden blinds, copied from a Colonial Williamsburg prototype, were added during the 1970s.

Constructed in 1918 to replace an old nineteenth-century dwelling that had previously housed the Champion Canton headquarters, the building was designed by Asheville architect W. H. Lord, who was represented on the site by his associate L. L. Merchant. It was conceived to give a substantial, responsible, professional look to the business offices of the Mill, but Champion officials were also anxious that the structure receive acceptance from mill employees and other Canton inhabitants. The June 1918 issue of *The Log* cheerfully acknowledged that those responsible for commissioning and designing the Main Office were not local residents, but "we think, from the standpoint of the Champion Family we should say. . . . This is a Tar Heel building." The article identifies the North Carolina origins of all the building materials and emphasizes that various skilled crews of mill workers had themselves executed construction. This bit of reassurance may have had some effect, for the building's straightforward rectilinear appearance is also characteristic of many of the roughly contemporary commercial buildings that line Main and Park streets.

Champion Main Office.

C-26 Central Methodist Church
34-44 Church Street

The antecedent of Central Methodist Church was founded in 1875 when a Methodist congregation began meeting in an old school building on Newfound Street (see C-18). John Reno donated this property to the group and slowly, over the next four years, a brick church building was constructed. Reno also donated land along what is now Trammell Avenue for the establishment of a Methodist campground. According to a church history, week-long summer meetings were popular at this site until a fire destroyed a number of the shelters in 1882. Members of these earliest Methodist organizations bore the names of some of the first settlers to the area, including Sorrells, Smathers, Moore, Reno, Kirkpatrick, and Penland.

In 1910, the Newfound Street church was replaced by a brick hip-roofed structure that was erected on the present site. This move placed the church on the old Asheville Highway, a major turnpike through western North Carolina that partitions Canton into two roughly equal sections. The second building was a combination church-school and sanctuary. The basic rectangular plan of the structure was distinguished by a corner bell tower and a central entrance tower, both with sturdy Gothic crenellations at the top. Lancet windows were glazed with stained glass. Sometime around 1920, the congregation adopted the present name of Central Methodist Church.

The 1910 church served its dual purpose until 1949, when the present edifice was built. Designed by the Knoxville architectural firm of Barber and McMurry, the church is a blend of Classical Revival forms and motifs. Most of the details, including the denticulated cornice are executed in molded brick. The 1910 structure continued in use for Sunday school classes until 1956, when it was replaced by the present bland structure.

C-27 Bell Motor Company
Smoky Mountain Vending Company
Coast Lamp Manufacturing Company
35 Church Street

Filling a narrow corner site formed by the junction of Bridge and Church streets, this two-story concrete and brick structure was built around 1925 as Bell Motor Company. William F. Bell was a native of Ronda, North Carolina, where he began work in the lumber business. Subsequently, as a mechanic, he developed and patented a new kind of metal corn mill. In 1914, he moved to Canton and established a garage on Main Street at the Pigeon River bridge. Not only did he sell several lines of automobiles, including Oaklands, Cadillacs, and Hupmobiles, but he also advertised expert service for all kinds of cars, proclaiming himself especially a "doctor of Fords."

Sometime before 1930, Bell moved his garage to this location near the east end of the business district. A 1930 insurance map describes this oddly shaped structure as a sixty-car garage and stock facility. Attached to the masonry building was a one-story frame shed with gas pumps set out on the street. Wide bays for cars still line the Bridge Street facade, and entrances for offices and work space are on the Church Street side.

By 1937, this building was used by Goodson Pontiac Company, another local car dealership. Between 1939 and 1975, it was the headquarters of Paul Launer's Smoky Mountain Vending Company. Since that date, the expansive work and storage space has been occupied by the Coast Lamp Manufacturing Company.

C-28 Sharp-Owen House
28 Church Street

This imposing house was built in 1923 by W. Turner Sharp, a prominent member of Canton's business community. Born in Haywood County in 1861, Sharp opened a general store in Canton in 1891. His business was located on the corner site now occupied by the Medical Building (C-55). He married Nova, a daughter of W. J. Hampton (see C-48 and C-93) and swiftly became one of the most influential businessmen in town. In addition to his merchandising, Sharp was responsible for the construction of several important Canton buildings, including an early post office building (C-58), the Imperial Hotel (C-59), and the J. O. Plott Building (C-29). He held a number of important community positions, including those of mayor, president of the board of trade, and member of the board of education.

Sharp's house is constructed to two stories of pressed and textured red brick. The double-pile, central-passage plan is flanked by two original one-story wings, both constructed to resemble enclosed pergolas.

Following Sharp's death in 1929, this house was sold to Champion Fibre Company for use by mill supervisor Harold Walker and his family. Around 1960, Drs. Robert and Margaret Owen (see C-61) bought the house.

C-29 J. O. Plott Wholesale Grocery
So Hy Products, Inc.
Industrial Distributors, Inc.
166-168 Main Street

These two brick commercial buildings are situated on an advantageous location at the junction of Main Street and the Southern Railroad tracks. The earlier of the two structures is the three-story building at 168 Main Street. Around 1910, it was constructed by local architect-builder Joseph M. Wray (see C-21, C-46, and C-56) for W. Turner Sharp (see C-28). The first story was used by the Haywood Grocery Company, and the upper two floors were occupied by the Canton Inn. In 1914, the Haywood Grocery Company was bought by J. O. Plott, an enterprising native of Haywood County whose experience included ownership of the Pigeon Valley Mill, operation of a sawmill on his family farm, and management of a local feed store. J. O. Plott's firm became the leading wholesale grocery in western North Carolina, serving communities along the railroad between Asheville and Murphy.

Around 1920, the two-story, three-bay brick building at 166 Main Street was constructed, possibly as an addition to Plott's facilities. An insurance map records that it was in use as a wholesale grocery in 1930.

By about 1940, the Plott business had been replaced at 168 by the So

View from Main Street.

Hy Chemical Products Company, owned principally by Sam M. Robinson (see C-64), T. A. Patterson, and Walter J. Damtoft (see C-4). The adjacent two-story building had been converted to offices for the Haywood County Welfare Department. Most recently, these two structures have been used by Industrial Distributors, dealers in pulp and paper mill supplies.

Like the first stories, the upper levels of these two buildings have served a number of purposes. Accessible from Bridge Street, the spaces have been used for the Royal Clothing Manufacturing Company and the Freel Furniture warehouse (see C-30 and C-50). For a time, the Canton Public Library (see C-102) was housed here.

View from Bridge Street.

C-30 Main Street-Church Street Block
148-156 Main Street
19-27 Church Street

The commercialization of this triangular block occurred over a nine-year period, between 1907 and 1916. A Sanborne Insurance Company plan of Canton indicates that, in 1907, the entire lot was vacant except for a single-story frame dwelling. By 1912, when new maps of Canton were issued, buildings had been erected on three of the five business lots. Those two remaining spaces had been filled by 1916, according to a view of Main Street published in the pictorial edition of the *Carolina Mountaineer.* Because this narrow block is defined by two major thoroughfares, each building has two commercial fronts, one each on Main and Church streets. As a result of the site's downward slope from east to west, the Church Street facades are consistently one story lower than their counterparts on the Main Street side.

148 Main Street, 19 Church Street

This brick building was designed especially to fit the acute intersection of Main and Church streets. Constructed to two stories on the Main Street side, the building had broad commercial windows on the first floor, and an irregular arrangement of segmental-arched windows on the second story.

146-156 Main Street.

Two commercial units were apparently accessible from both Main and Church streets. In 1912, the corner shop was occupied by a meat market, and the northern half of the building was vacant. This structure has been demolished.

150-152 Main Street

Constructed around 1910, this three-story building has a trapezoidal plan that conforms to both streetfronts. Its striking Main Street facade is partitioned into two sections, each three bays wide, framed by advanced brick piers and corbelled brick cornices. Stone arches, sills, and string courses embellish the round-headed windows. In 1912, the two Main Street sections were occupied by a fish market and a movie theater. By 1916, at least half of the structure had been taken over by Canton Electric and Telephone Company (see C-86). Established in 1909, this company provided both phone service and electric power to the entire Canton community.

21-23 Church Street

The two-story Church Street side of the building was renovated about 1925, when its dark pressed-brick veneer was added. Stone voussoirs over the second-story windows and a diamond pattern in the brick cornice distinguish this store front. Like its counterpart on Main Street, this end of the building is divided into two commercial units, both of which were occupied by a general store in 1912. Since the 1930s, both this and the Main Street components of the building have been used as office space for Champion.

154-156 Main Street

This building was constructed between 1912, when Sanborne maps indicated a vacant lot at this site, and 1916, when the building is pictured in a view of Main Street. The brick structure was originally constructed as two distinct store units, each two stories high and four bays wide with rows of jack-arched bays set above broad street-level shop windows. Presumably, both units originally had corbelled, or stepped-out brick cornices like the one that survives on the north section.

The early functions of this building are not known. In 1928, that section at 156 was acquired by the town government and renovated for use as a town hall. It served this purpose until 1972 (see C-37). At about the same time, a third story was added to 154. This half of the building has been occupied for many years by the Freel Furniture Company (see C-50).

25-27 Church Street

Both of these commercial units are the products of remodeling — if not actual construction — that occurred in 1928. Number 25 has a plain two-story, three-bay storefront with a pressed-brick veneer that is continuous with that of 21-23 Church Street. For years, it was part of the Freel Furniture business (see C-50).

The structure at 27 Church Street was built or heavily altered in 1928 for use as the Canton Fire Department. First organized in 1909, the Canton Fire Department was originally located near 155 Main Street (see C-31). At the present site, broad folding doors accommodated the fire engines, part of what *The Log* called "the finest and best equipped station west of Asheville." The dark red textured-brick facade frames the initials C. F. D. which are set prominently over the doorway. Like the town hall component of this building, this space had been vacant since the 1972 completion of a new municipal complex on Park Street (C-37).

19-27 Church Street.

C-31 Main Street-Cabe Street Block
147-161 Main Street

Like much of downtown Canton, this block was developed to its present appearance between 1910 and 1930. Before the paper mill had begun production, this section of Main Street between Park and Depot streets was distinguished by a one-story wood-framed house and three one-story wooden commercial buildings. Among them were housed a feed store, a grocery store, a bowling alley, a confectionery and the town's first fire station (see C-30). By 1912, the brick buildings at street numbers 147, 149, and 153 were standing, interspersed with the smaller and older wood

161 Main Street.

structures. Three years later, the corner building at 161 Main Street had been erected. The other lots had all been filled with the existing brick buildings well before 1930.

New Canton Cafe
Hartshorn Appliance Service
161 Main Street

This two-story brick commercial building is faced with a dark red pressed brick that is laid in advanced and recessed patterns, visually partitioning the structure among its various functions. Constructed in 1915,

147-159 Main Street.

this building represented a major business venture by George and Pete Passes, young men who had recently immigrated from Greece. The building had cost them $15,000 and was designed to include a restaurant — called

147 Main Street.

the New Canton Cafe — a barber shop, and a hotel run on the European plan. The oblique corner entrance neatly expresses the Passes' understanding that their patrons would be approaching not only from Main Street but also from the railroad station (C-98) located across Depot Street.

Cantonian Theatre
Stiles Mart
151 Main Street

The facade of this plain brick building has been changed a number of times since it was first constructed in about 1913. The textured brick surface of the upper story may date from the 1920s. The rustic wood sheathing around the commercial entrance was added during the 1970s. This building was probably constructed by K. F. Wenz (see C-74), Champion's accountant, for use as the Gaiety motion picture house. In 1915, it was purchased by G. H. Bailie and J. T. Duckworth — both management-level employees at the Mill — who proceeded to renovate the structure. They made the theater itself more comfortable and they added a pressed sheet-metal facade to the exterior. As the Cantonian Theatre, it made available motion pictures that "both instruct and entertain." For admission prices of five and ten cents, customers could each night see as many as ten reels of silent short features accompanied by the theater's orchestrion and player piano.

During the 1930s, the theater became known as the Strand, an identity it maintained until the 1950s, when it was remodeled for use as Pearlman's Clothing Store. Since 1963, it has been the location of Stiles Mart.

Champion Drug Store
147 Main Street

This three-story structure is probably the oldest standing building in this block of Main Street. In 1912, it houses what may have been the town's first telephone exchange. By 1930, it was in use as Canton's armory (see C-84). Within seven years, it had become the office building for Carolina Power and Light Company (see C-86). Its most recent — and best known — function as a drug store dates from about 1940, when it was first identified in the town directories as Champion Drug Store. The business remained active until about 1983.

C-32 Hudson's Department Store
41 Main Street

In 1907, Main Street extended — unpaved and largely uninterrupted — from the river to the railroad station (C-98). At that time, this lot was vacant. Five years later, three one-story frame buildings shared the site, housing among them a harness and shoe repair shop, a dry goods store and restaurant, and — the business longtime residents of Canton are most likely to remember — a fruit stand. Sometime after 1916, Park Street was laid out and this two-story brick corner building was constructed in a way that visually defines Park Street's termination at Main Street. Shortly thereafter, the one-story structures were added. Charles Wells (see C-43 and C-95), a prominent local merchant, commissioned the buildings with the intention of renting them to three separate businesses.

The corner section was first used as a dry goods store by C. Broadway Wells (see C-43). Sometime in the 1920s, it became the Epstein Department Store. In 1931, it was known as the Hub. Over this same span of years, the two single-story commercial units were rented by a variety of enterprises — most memorably as a drug and a clothing store. In 1931, Hudson's Department Store opened for business in the western section of the one-story building. An expanded enterprise, the Belk-Hudson Department Store, had filled all three of these commercial spaces by 1942.

Hudson's was established and managed by George Hudson, a newcomer who had grown up on a farm near Charlotte. In young adulthood, he and several brothers and cousins had gone to work with an

Hudson's Department Store grand opening in 1931. Original photograph in the possession of Margaret W. Hudson, Canton, N.C.

extensive department store business. Hudson moved to Canton with the intention of opening a branch of Belk-Hudson's. He married the youngest daughter of Charles Wells and remained in Canton for the rest of his life.

C-33 Parris and West Esso Station
Keith's Auto Repair
14 Park Street

Located on the corner of Cabe and Park streets, this building is the earliest surviving gas station in downtown Canton. In its original form, it included a small stuccoed brick office occupying about a third of the sheltering expanse of the hipped roof. The remaining space has always served as protection for gas pumps, attendants, customers, and their cars. In more recent years, a shed was added to the rear, and a two-bay garage was built onto the west side.

The gas station was built between 1930 and 1937 as the Parris and West Esso Station. Like many similar little buildings (see C-77) erected on newly cleared or formerly vacant lots all over America, this gas station was built to take advantage of the rising importance of automobile travel.

C-34 Canton Hotel
21 Park Street

This four-story hotel building has design characteristics that link it to the Champion Main Office (C-25) and the Camelot Apartments (C-24). It was probably built at about the same time — between 1920 and 1925. The structure represents a major addition — perhaps more than a doubling of space — to the Imperial Hotel (C-59). Faced with red textured brick and embellished with squares and bands of yellow pressed brick, the building has a trapezoidal form that results from its following the angles of both Main and Park streets. The hotel entrance is flanked by small street-front spaces that have accommodated a variety of businesses, including barber shops and taverns. A faded sign painted on the west side of the building still encourages passersby to "Stop in for a Red Top." While the hotel clearly has a commercial front of its own, it was known for many years simply as the addition of the Imperial Hotel. Sometime after 1942, it came to be identified as the Canton Hotel. The business has operated in only a marginal and intermittent fashion since the 1960s. In 1983, it was acquired by a group of Canton businessmen who converted the building into an apartment house for use by elderly residents.

C-35 Park Street-Academy Street Block
20-26 Park Street

The relevant history of this block begins before any of the standing buildings were constructed. Starting around 1905, this was the site of a lumber yard. Operated first by W. P. Cabe, the business was bought by C. J. Jeffries and H. A. Osborne in 1908. Three years later, Arthur Osborne bought his partner out and ran this lumber business well into the 1940s.

Shortly after Osborne took over the lumber yard, an insurance company recorded the plan of the site: a large open area was defined on three sides by a warehouse, two lumber shelters, and a building in which lime was stored. Along the edge of Park Street — which was not then defined — were

three small frame dwellings. According to a 1916 advertisement, "There one can find at almost any hour of the day teams busily engaged in transporting lumber . . . it is a sign of progress." At the Park Street site, Osborne maintained a stock of:

> finished and unfinished lumber, builders' hardware and materials of all kind: paints and varnishes; agricultural machinery, especially . . . farm wagons, engines, plows . . .; lime, cement, and plaster, lathing, [and] shingles. . . .

A supply business of this sort was of great importance in a town that was growing as fast as Canton was between 1910 and 1925. Understanding this, Osborne not only kept a wide range of materials on hand, he guaranteed to obtain "anything procurable" on reasonable notice.

26 Park Street

Sometime during the 1920s, Park Street was surveyed and surfaced, and Academy Street was extended north toward the Mill. At that time, Arthur Osborne constructed this three-story brick commercial building for use as Canton's new post office (see C-58). One of the upper stories was immediately taken up by the local order of the Masons. In later years, the ground-floor space was occupied by a Winn Dixie grocery store and then by Stone's Paint Store. The upper levels have been used for professional offices of various sorts and for Champion's Engineering Department.

The building has a stiff, utilitarian appearance. The Park and Academy street walls are faced with dark red textured brick, except around the Park Street commercial front, which is faced with yellow brick. Above the street level, the brickwork is corbelled in to create a frame around each window.

22-24 Park Street

Built in about 1950 by Samuel Burrus and Joseph Hair, this is the most recent structure in the block. The second story of the building has always been used for Hair's dental offices. The street level has been partitioned into two commercial spaces. One of these has been continuously in use by Martin's Drug Store (see C-57) — operated by the Burrus family — and the other unit was for many years occupied by Gordon's Jewelers. This building is constructed of concrete blocks that have been faced with black Carrara glass which, as the name implies, is meant to resemble marble sheathing.

20 Park Street

This unpretentious brick commercial building was constructed in 1940 by Carol McCracken for his McCracken Furniture Company. Since that time, it has housed a variety of businesses — most recently a florist's shop.

C-36 United States Post Office
32 Park Street

A local tradition maintains that this lot, formerly owned by Champion was made available for the construction of a black Methodist church in the early part of this century (see C-91). By 1930, however, the site and several acres immediately to the north and west were in use as an athletic field. In 1939, this post office building was constructed according to the design of architect Louis A. Simon. Built to replace the older post office building at 26 Park Street (see C-35), the building is one of literally hundreds of small public buildings that were built all over America during the 1930s in connection with the Works Progress Administration and other federal jobs programs.

This one-story structure is faced with roughly finished limestone that contrasts with the neat, regular classical ornamentation. A hexagonal cupola and a segmental-arched entrance distinguish the design. The relief carving of an eagle that fills the tympanum above the door is a reminder that this is a government building. It has also become a familiar image in Canton's business district, where this post office is a fine complement to the prevailing architectural forms and fabrics. In 1983, a new post office was constructed on the west end of town, and this substantial building was bought by Champion International.

C-37 Canton Town Hall
Canton Fire Station
58 Park Street

Now dotted with a number of public buildings, the area north of Park Street between Adams and Academy streets was for many years the site of the Champion Softball Park. More recently, it has served as a municipal parking lot. In 1972, the southwest corner of this landscape was filled by a new town hall and, behind it, a new fire station. Built to the designs of Boone-Lyda Associates, these structures were the result of growing opinion during the late 1960s that Canton needed more modern, spacious municipal facilities than were possible at the Main Street-Church Street location (C-30). The buildings are the results of the architects' understanding of the International style, which rejects ornamental clutter in favor of plain expression of form and function.

The town hall is constructed of ferroconcrete piers that support the flat concrete-paneled roof. Vertical strip windows flanking each pier provide the building's only glazing. Panels of buff brick complete the enclosure. Broad concrete eaves are the most interesting feature of the town hall. These elements are slotted to produce interesting oblique light patterns on otherwise rectilinear walls. The off-center recessed entrance provides passersby with information about the plan of the building's interior: two banks of offices, meeting spaces, and courtrooms are separated by a wide circulation passage that extends all the way through the building. The

dominant visual elements of the town hall — buff brick walls, concrete-paneled cornice and roof, rectilinear patterns of openings — are all repeated in the design of the fire station, although the specialized function of this important public structure is prominently expressed by the three fire-truck bays.

C-38 Colonial Theater
55-57 Park Street

Another distinctive component of Canton's downtown is the Colonial Theater. The building was constructed specifically for use as a motion picture theater in 1932 by Marion Sprinkle (see C-83) and W. H. Odum. They engaged the Benton and Benton architectural partnership of Wilson, North Carolina to design this building which was operated continuously as a theater until about 1970. It has been open intermittently since that time. A small commercial space in the northwest corner of the structure has been used as a barbershop over the years. Shortly after its initial construction, a one-story building was added to the west end. It has functioned as a cafe and soda fountain, as well as Canton's bus terminal and taxi station. More recently, this adjacent structure became the site of Canton's new liquor business.

Unlike the old Cantonian Theatre (see C-31), which was easily transformed into a department store, the Colonial Theater was constructed at a time when movie houses needed to be equipped and appointed for feature-length films with sound and perhaps even in color. Accordingly, the Colonial Theater building has an elongated, tapering form that accommodated a wide screen, fixed upholstered seats, and a balcony.

While the old Cantonian had fit unobtrusively into the row of commercial buildings between Main and Cabe streets, the Colonial was one of a generation of movie theaters that were decoratively designed to stand out in

a streetscape. Thus, the functional theater structure seems to be sprouting a colonial home on its front. This stolid domestic design was intended to encourage the growing sense that movies were respectable family entertainment. It also resulted from an American fascination with its colonial heritage. The Colonial Theater has this significant influence in common with the Canton Presbyterian Church (C-23) and the 1939 Post Office (C-36).

On the second-story facade of the theater, five regularly spaced windows have double-hung sash surmounted by gauged jack arches. A slate roof is interrupted by three gabled dormers and framed by parapet end walls with sham end chimneys. Each chimney has an iron cyma-curve ornament that appears to be the anchor of a tie rod like those that were often used to stabilize old houses during the nineteenth century.

The street-level theater front itself has been substantially altered, but many original features are visible in a photograph taken during the summer flood of 1940. Originally, a central ticket office was flanked by two advanced bay windows glazed with small domestic panes. These openings were surmounted by a wooden balustrade composed of Chippendale fretwork and posts finished with urn-shaped finials. An Art Deco neon theater marquee may have been an early addition.

Colonial Theater as it appeared during the 1940 flood of Canton. Taken from *Floods of the Pigeon River, Vicinity of Canton and Clyde, North Carolina* (Knoxville: Tennessee Valley Authority, 1959), p. 17.

C-39 Champion Motor Company
Brooks and Churm Furniture Company
92 Park Street

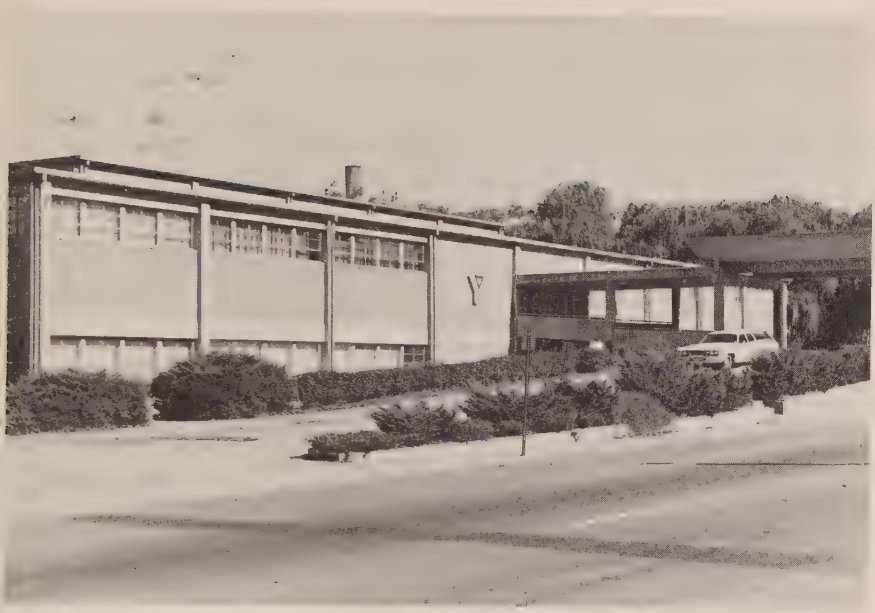
In 1930, this riverside site was occupied by a small brick filling station that must have looked very much like the one surviving at the corner of Park and Cabe streets (C-33), except that it was faced with red textured brick. Within seven years, the little building was literally embedded in this big one-story brick building which was constructed especially for use by the Champion Motor Company, a Ford dealership. The building was later used by the Rush Motor Company, and still more recently, as a storage facility for Champion company cars. In 1965, Brooks and Churm moved their furniture business to this building: they found that the extensive floor space and wide garage bays were ideal for displaying and selling furniture.

Like many commercial structures in Canton, this building has a severe, angular design. Embellishments are restricted to variations in the brick coursing. At the end of the long row of service-bay windows, a polygonal display case breaks forward from the facade of the building. This distinctive feature provides a kind of punctuation mark at the junction between Park Street and the Pigeon River.

C-40 Robertson Memorial Y.M.C.A.
100 Park Street

In the early 1960s, Champion Papers arranged to install a new paper machine at the east end of the Canton plant, and including the site of the Champion Y.M.C.A. (C-97). To provide for the replacement of this important local institution, Champion donated a sum of money — as well as this Park Street site — toward construction of a new building. The result was this facility, designed by the Charles M. Graves Organization, a partnership of park and recreation specialists in Atlanta.

Located near the west end of Canton's established commercial district, this squarish two-story building appears to be only one story in height because it is set on a low riverbank site. The structure plainly shows its skeleton: a reinforced concrete frame is filled in with steel-muntined strip windows and panels of yellow brick laid in a Flemish bond pattern. On the facade, the header bricks are all advanced, giving the building a textured surface. Overall, the new Y.M.C.A. has the rectilinear, austere look that characterizes many of the institutional structures erected during the 1960s. The most arresting detail of the building is the *porte cochere* that shelters and defines the main entrance. A concrete post-and-beam frame has been surmounted by a concrete canopy fancifully molded to a suggest a bird in flight. This new facility was dedicated as the Reuben B. Robertson Memorial Y.M.C.A. in 1965.



C-41 Canton Tire and Retreading Company 23 Main Street

Since the diverting of traffic to two new concrete bridges over the Pigeon River and the subsequent demolition of Canton's original metal truss bridge, this first block of Main Street has become isolated and commercially listless. As a result, it retains the interspersion of domestic and commercial structures that characterized downtown Canton until the 1930s.

This two-story brick building was constructed on the site of an old frame livery stable sometime between 1915 and 1920. Like many of the other buildings of the period, it combines street-level store units with upper-story domestic space. What distinguishes this structure is that the two separate functions are expressed in the design. From Main Street, it appears that a single-story brick store has a gable-roofed and shingle-sided bungalow perched on top.

In 1930, this structure was used as an automobile battery station. During the 1940s, it had become the site of the Canton Tire and Retreading Company, managed by Harold C. Ford. The domestic section is still inhabited, but the commercial level now stands vacant.

C-42 Holtzclaw-Taylor House
20 Main Street

This important house is probably the oldest surviving structure in anton. Its traditional form — which has sustained significant interior teration — suggests that it was erected between 1860 and 1880, probably response to the construction of the Western Turnpike. Built to two ories, this frame house was first covered with weatherboarding. A central air passage was originally flanked on both stories by two rooms of roughly qual size. Each of these rooms was heated by a firebox built into one of the vo exterior brick gable-end chimneys. Little original woodwork survives, ut it appears to have been designed in the Greek Revival style. The rear ed was an early addition to the house; the front porch was added metime later and probably replaced an original structure of similar esign.

It is not certain who built this house. It has been identified as the welling of local blacksmith James Anderson and of J. D. Holtzclaw, owner f a contiguous sawmill. Possibly, both men occupied the house serially, us increasing the building's importance. It is the only surviving artifact of geon River's nineteenth-century role as a processing and supply center for e farmers and travelers of western North Carolina.

C-43 C. T. Wells Store (site)
Main Street-Water Street Block
51-53 Main Street

In 1881, Charles Wells moved to Pigeon River to open a general merchandising business. He apparently chose this location because of its advantageous situation at the place where the Western Turnpike intersected a country road that roughly follows the river south toward Cruso. The structure he built was a two-story framed and weatherboarded building that was oriented with its gable end toward the street. To the east of the Wells general store was an undefined lane leading down into the valley. In later years, it was formalized as Adams Street. To the west was a series of three one-story frame stores which, according to a photograph taken at the turn of the century, were similar in form and detail to the Wells structure. Included among them were a restaurant, a grocery and meat market, and a dry goods store.

By 1907, Wells was advertising his business as one of "general merchandise, coffins and caskets." Within a few years, he had divided his concern among three of his sons: James (see C-18 and C-94) and Broadway — who also ran a dry goods store at the other end of Main Street (see C-32) — assumed and expanded the undertaking business, while Wallace took over the general merchandising enterprise. As all of this was going on, the

Charles Wells' general store about 1895. Original photograph in the possession of Howard and Mary Sellars, Canton, N.C.

amily continued to dominate this block of Main Street.

In three separate building campaigns between 1912 and 1925, Charles Wells replaced all of the frame buildings with the present pressed-brick tructures. Most of the commercial units were occupied by Wells family

businesses until the middle of the 1930s. In 1937, a Canton business directory indicates that five of the six spaces were vacant. Only the two-story corner section was in use — as the West Brothers Supply Company. By 1942, this business had been joined by the Farmer's Federation Feed Store, the Rhinehart and Terrell Grocery Store, and the watch repair shop of Dewey Lisenbee.

C-44 Mears-Lide House
Boxwood Terrace Apartments
50 Main Street

This big brick structure is an important survivor of the late nineteenth century, when Pigeon River was one of many scenic little mountain communities accessible to vacationers by stagecoach and train. Along the steep bank above Main Street, a series of dwellings and boarding houses — all commanding an appealing view of the Pigeon River valley — was built to attract and accommodate flatland visitors (see C-100). It was probably during the 1880s that Mark Mears constructed this building. Its form and extent suggest that he always intended to use part of it as a boarding house; certainly the building was functioning in that capacity by 1896, when an advertisement for the Mears Boarding House appeared in a state business directory.

Around the turn of the century, the business was operated by Jerome Wells, Mears' son-in-law. Within a few years, Wells had died and Mears' daughter had married E. M. Lide, a newcomer to Canton. Born in Darlington, South Carolina, Lide moved to Canton in 1904 to establish a hardware business. By 1916, he had a store that specialized in good-quality tools available at prices that Lide hoped could divert business from the national mail-order houses. During Lide's tenure, this structure was apparently maintained as a private residence. By the 1940s, the Mears-Lide home had been remodeled for use as the Champion Inn Apartments. Since

the 1950s, it has been known as the Boxwood Terrace Apartments.

This imposing old structure has a long, rectangular, two-story form, oriented with the gable end overlooking Main Street. A 1916 photograph indicates that it had an original or early two-story gallery that completely sheltered the facade, as well as parts of the east and west walls. Vestiges of the original band-sawn balustrades and brackets survive on the remains of this old porch which now protects only the front central bay. In recent years — probably in connection with the building's transformation into an apartment building — two-story wings were added to the east and west ends of the structure.

C-45 Adams Street-Main Street Block
59-69 Main Street

At the turn of the century, this section of Main Street was dominated by a two-story framed and weatherboarded general store. Behind it was located a livery stable and a shelter for freight scales. A one-story framed restaurant had been added to the site by 1912.

67-69 Main Street

Sometime around 1920 Charles Hampton, son of prominent local merchant W. J. Hampton (see C-48 and C-93), constructed this two-unit commercial building to house his clothing store. Faced with yellow pressed brick and embellished with rowlock patterns of red brick, the building provides a contrast to the prevailing red masonry of the commercial streetscape. The Hampton Clothier was in business at this location until about 1940. Bill Shull's Nantahala Hardware is another significant local business associated with this site.

59-65 Main Street

This two-story structure was built in two sections sometime after the adjacent building was erected, but before 1930. The corner section of the unpretentious building was apparently originally used as the Deluxe

67-69 Main Street.

Tavern, an establishment which could be entered from the corner doorway. Behind the steel-muntined windows of the second story was the meeting hall of the Knights of Pythias. Over the years, the original part of this structure has housed Parker's Taxi Service, the Harris Grocery Store, and Robinson's Grocery Store. It has been the location of the Canton Hardware since 1958. The severe looking two-story addition has almost always been occupied by a shoe repair shop.

59-65 Main Street.

C-46 Mears Building
Main Street

This brick store building is part of the extensive rebuilding that Canton's commercial district sustained between 1910 and 1920. Located at the corner of Mears Avenue and Main Street, the building was constructed in 1914 by a descendant of Mark Mears (see C-44), who had settled in Pigeon River in the late nineteenth century. The property owner engaged builder Joseph M. Wray, a native of western North Carolina who had also supervised construction of the Canton Graded School (C-21), the Plott Building (C-29), and the Hampton Building (C-56).

Constructed to two stories, the Mears Building has a six-course common-bond fabric that is faced with red pressed brick on the front wall. A shed roof slopes away from Main Street. Two commercial units are delineated by steel-framed plate-glass windows and recessed doorways. A central entrance provides access to the second floor, which has been used intermittently as dwelling, meeting, and storage space. The builder softened the angles and apertures of the Mears Building with stylistic details that had been popular for the embellishment of urban commercial structures since the middle of the nineteenth century. Round-headed windows are surmounted by sandstone voussoirs. The second-story bays are separated by advanced brick piers that terminate at the cornice line with brick corbels and recessed sandstone panels.

Apparently, the Mears Building was occupied as soon as it was

completed by The Fair, a dry goods store specializing in reasonably priced ready-to-wear clothes, shoes, and hats. Advertised as the largest store of its kind in Canton, The Fair was established in 1915 by Morris Littman, a young merchant who had just sold his interest in a similar business in Asheville. Littman's father, Canton optometrist Arthur Littman was a native of Germany. Having lived in New York City before moving his family to western North Carolina, the older Littman was known to understand the "mercantile game" of the big cities. A 1916 description of The Fair attributed the store's reasonable prices to the combined business skill of Morris and Arthur Littman. The pair made frequent excursions to:

> the markets of New York and other Northern cities, where so many buyers, less posted in the game, ramble aimlessly and confusedly about and are often taken in and made goats of by the high price sharks that infest all such centers.

In more recent years, the Mears Building has housed a sporting goods store, a dry cleaning business, and a billiards parlor.

C-47 Schulman Building
71-77 Main Street

Early fire insurance maps of Canton indicate that this site was occupied by a scattering of one-story frame store buildings until the late 1920s, when most of the structures had been cleared away. In 1932, Barney Schulman joined with his brothers-in-law Aaron Pliskin of High Point and I. J. Londoner of Marion to finance the construction of this lone one-story commercial building. Composed of common red brick with a tan pressed-brick veneer, this low, pale building adds visual contrast to Canton's commercial district. Unlike the earlier Mears Building (C-46), the Schulman Building is embellished with geometric patterns of brickwork, rather than with details derived from historical architectural styles. In this respect, it joins the Champion Main Office (C-25) and the Canton Hotel (C-34) in a self-conscious attempt to be modern.

The Schulman Building's crisp brick facade frames four identical commercial bays, each with plate-glass windows set on either side of a recessed entrance. Despite this four-part design, the structure has apparently always been occupied by two businesses. For at least ten years, the western half of the building was occupied by an Eagle Department Store, while the eastern portion housed Barney Schulman's Department Store. By 1953, the Schulman section had been assumed by a branch of the John Graham Department Store. The western half of the building — now occupied by a Western Auto Store — has served a number of purposes, but it is most often remembered as Davis' Dime Store.

C-48 W. J. Hampton Store (site)
Rose's Dime Store
Jack's Five and Ten Cents Store
Thrif-tee Drug Discount
83-85 Main Street

From at least 1907 until sometime after 1930, this site was occupied by a two-story brick commercial building. Local oral tradition maintains that this structure was the W. J. Hampton General Store — the first brick building in downtown Pigeon River. Hampton (see C-93) had moved to town from Buncombe County in 1873, intent on establishing a business that would draw customers from among turnpike travelers and mountain farmers. It is uncertain when he constructed his brick store, which is visible in early photographs of Main Street as a plain structure with a wood-framed commercial front, a two-bay upper story, and a molded brick cornice. Canton's brotherhood of Masons, founded in 1894, regularly met above Hampton's store.

Between 1930 and 1942, the Hampton Store was demolished and replaced with this one-story brick commercial building. Designed especially to house a branch of the Rose's Dime Store Company, this structure has original steel-framed glass commercial bays and streamlined Art Deco detailing that is almost obscured by a new wood-and-shingle awning.

Like the contiguous Schulman Building (C-47), this store was constructed after Canton's era of rapid expansion had ended. There was no need to build second stories for use as apartments. Furthermore, these lots slope gradually to the north, allowing for easy construction of basement storage space.

C-49 **Champion Bank**
American Cleaners and Shirt Laundry
87 Main Street

hampion Bank in 1916. Taken from the *Carolina Mountaineer: Haywood County Industrial and Resort Edition,* 21 December 1916, p. 47.

One of the earliest surviving brick commercial buildings in Canton is this one, now occupied by the American Cleaners and Shirt Laundry. While its plain brick facade is embellished only with a broad segmental-arched entrance, there survives evidence of the structure's original appearance. Four segmental-arched bays once gave the front of this one-story building a vertical emphasis, while sandstone or stuccoed brick sills and lintels

alanced the design. The windows were surmounted by gauged jack arches hich may still be observed today beneath layers of paint. The most istinguishing feature of the building was a wooden or molded sheet-metal ornice. The board nailers to which this feature was attached may also be iscerned on the present front of the building.

Stylistic features — such as the bracketed cornice — suggest that this uilding was constructed during the late nineteenth century, perhaps at bout the time the railroad was extended to Pigeon River. Like many other mall-town bank buildings of the era, this structure had a modest size, a asonry fabric, and a narrow entrance — all features that were meant to npart a sense of control, stability, and security.

Champion Bank, the institution for which this structure is best known, as organized between 1903 and 1908 during the surge of economic ac- vity associated with the construction of the Mill. J. H. Kirkpatrick was the ashier and largest stockholder. W. J. Hampton (see C-93) was an early resident of this institution. Hampton, whose general store was located nmediately to the west (C-48), may have also been associated with the nancial enterprise that had originally commissioned construction of this uilding.

Champion Bank was active until 1932, when the harsh circumstances f economic depression forced it to close. By that time, the bank may well ave moved to a new location. A 1923 photograph of Main Street indicates at the facade of this building had been altered to its present appearance — nd an open commercial front is not usually considered appropriate for anking activities. By 1937, the building was in use as the City Cafe.

C-50 Raiff's Department Store
Freel Furniture Store
93-95 Main Street

At about the time Champion initiated production in Canton, this site was occupied by a two-story frame building clad in decorative sheet metal. Flanking this distinctive building were two single-story wooden structures, one of which housed Mac Smathers' barber shop, where Canton residents could purchase a bath each Saturday.

The first section of the present complex to be erected was the easternmost two-story structure. It probably dates from about 1925. Distinguished by advanced and recessed courses and columns of brickwork, the upper story of this building served for many years as the law office of Thomas Clark.

By 1930, the westernmost unit of this complex had been constructed. The middle one-story section and the narrow two-story connector were added over the course of the next five years. By 1935, Raiff's Department Store was located here and was beginning the process of remodeling — including the insertion of plate-glass commercial windows and construction of a rear addition — that transformed this series of buildings into one long store.

Raiff's was renamed Raylass in the early 1960s, and the line of merchandise was changed to fit a new emphasis on discount shopping. In more recent years, the building has housed a succession of businesses, each of which required extensive floor space.

-51 Hampton-Cochran House (site)
Haywood County Bank
First Union National Bank
101 Main Street

Around 1890, Colonel G. W. Hampton moved from Leicester to be ear his son, W. J. Hampton (see C-48 and C-93), who ran a successful eneral store in Pigeon River. He constructed on this Main Street lot a two- ory framed and weatherboarded dwelling. Built to have the rambling, symmetrical appearance that was fashionable during the Victorian era, the ouse had a simple L plan with a one-story rear kitchen wing and a pair of ne-story porches. Detailing was limited to turnings on the posts and alusters of the front porch and to band-sawn boards applied to the two ables so that they suggest half-timbered construction. The family of arriet Hampton Cochran, heir of G. W. Hampton, owned the house until 925, when they sold it to the Haywood County Bank.

Within the next five years, the bank razed the Hampton-Cochran ouse and constructed a brick and sandstone building on its site at the orthwest corner of Main and Academy streets. Designed to give Canton sidents confidence in the weight and performance of the banking in- itution, this buff brick building is a squarish, flat-roofed structure nhanced by neoclassical details. Sandstone pilasters and an entablature utline the facade, while moldings emphasize the central door and flanking

windows. Sandstone panels with relief carvings of festoons offset the austerity of the front. During the 1960s, two one-story brick wings were added to the building.

For a number of years, the Haywood County Bank — originally a branch of the Bank of Clyde — was Canton's only bank. In 1958, the institution merged with the First Union National Bank, which gives this structure its present identity.

C-52 Crowder Building
80-82 Main Street

For the first three decades of the twentieth century, this Main Street site as occupied by a one-story framed grocery store. By 1930, the small ooden structure had been replaced by a concrete-walled garage. Listed on n insurance map as having a twenty-car capacity, this garage probably had ne same dimensions as the present structure. In 1937, the garage building as in use as Albert J. Anderson's Sheet Metal Works.

The building currently occupying this lot was constructed during the 940s by Otha Crowder of Asheville. It is faced with highly glazed yellow ricks that have been laid up in a distinctive pattern of vertical and orizontal stretchers. Steel-framed commercial windows indicate that this ructure was originally designed to enclose two separate commercial units. or many years, the western half of the Crowder Building has been used as a arber shop. The eastern section was remodeled in the 1960s for use as a w office.

C-53 Brannon Building
Dick Schulman's
94 Main Street

The lot on which this building now stands was vacant until about 1910, when a narrow two-story brick structure was erected for use as a

rug store. In 1919, Walter Brannon built this three-story, three-bay tructure. Brannon had come to Canton in 1906, attracted by the con-truction work available at Champion. He got work as a foreman in charge f excavating the site on which the mill buildings were erected. By 1912, he ad opened Canton's first butcher shop at the corner of Main and Church treets (see C-30), and seven years later, he commissioned construction of his structure to accommodate his expanded meat market. In the upper tories, the Brannons raised their eleven children and operated a boarding ouse for newcomers who had found work at the Mill.

By the 1930s, the Brannons had moved on, and the ground floor of this uilding had been partitioned into office space for a justice of the peace, a ocal constable, and a barber shop. The upper stories continued in use as ublic rooming space through the 1940s — first as the Richman Boarding Iouse and then as the Main Street Inn. Sometime during the 1940s, the round floor was once again opened up to provide floor space for Lindsey nd Ward's piano store. This business was succeeded by Stiles Mart (see C-1). Since the middle of the 1960s, the building has housed Dick Schulman's vomen's clothing store.

It is Schulman who has given the Brannon Building its present istinctive appearance. On the ground floor, the original commercial bays nd recessed side entrances were replaced by a central doorway and anking plate-glass windows that are set flush to the sidewalk. Applied nuntins make these big windows appear to be composed of small domestic-caled panes. Reused old-brick infilling, louvered blinds, and a row of entils provide other recognizable allusions to colonial domestic design. On ne second and third stories, the original pairs of single-pane double-hung-ash windows have been retained, though added louvered blinds complete ne remodeled Early American effect of the Brannon Building.

C-54 Curtis-Wells Building
Curtis Grocery Store
Smathers Market
100 Main Street

The sites of the Curtis-Wells Building and the adjacent corner parking lot were vacant until at least 1930, when a town map indicates that the spaces had just been laid out for commercial construction. Before that date, the property had functioned as part of the front yard of a two-story frame hotel set well back from Main Street. By 1937, the hotel was gone and Joseph M. Curtis was operating a grocery store in this two-story shed-roofed commercial building. George L. Snyder's household of nine people occupied the second floor.

In the 1950s, after years of experience at the Champion Employees' Store (C-101), Underwood and Lorenzo Smathers bought the building and established Smathers Market (see C-93). In 1961, Carey Wells, Jr., bought the structure and altered the second story to serve as his dental offices. The street level was remodeled to serve the needs of a variety of commercial enterprises. Metal-framed plate-glass windows and a recessed entrance were added to the front. The second story was sheathed in enameled fiberglass panels, and a stairwell, faced with a contrasting textured brick, was added to the northeast corner of the structure. Since the middle of the 1960s, the ground floor of the Curtis-Wells Building has functioned serially as a bank, a lending institution, and a sporting goods store.

C-55 Medical Building
108-110 Main Street

This lot at the corner of Main Street and Academy Street was occupied t the turn of the century by a two-story brick store building that had been early doubled in size by a two-story metal-clad frame extension. A single-tory wooden porch sheltered the entrance. At that time, Academy Street vas a rough, irregular road leading up the hill to the Locust Field Academy see C-65), the Locust Field Cemetery (C-72), and a handful of Victorian ouses. By 1930, the old general store building had been demolished or emodeled into a three-story brick building that is best remembered as Turner Sharp's (see C-28 and C-59) grocery store. Toward the end of the lecade, the building was occupied by the McCracken Furniture Company C-35).

In 1941, a group of six Canton physicians and dentists commissioned he construction of the Medical Building. The second and third stories of his polygonal structure were designed as the offices of Alton Bottoms, Albert Cline, Sr., Howard Duckett, Roy Moore, Jerome Reeves, and Joseph Westmoreland, while the ground floor was planned for rental to a range of mall businesses. Originally, the street level was occupied by the Canton avings and Loan (see C-94), Hendrix Drug Store, and Margie's Beauty hop.

Constructed with solid masonry walls and a yellow pressed-brick eneer, the Medical Building has a six-sided form that follows the lines of he tapering corner lot. Rowlock string courses extend between advanced iers, which give the plain structure a vaguely Art Deco identity.

C-56 Hampton Building
Canton Optometric Clinic
112 Main Street

Until at least 1912, the site on which this building is located was part of the sloping front yard of the W. J. Hampton House (C-93). Probably around 1915, Ott Hampton hired local builder Joseph M. Wray to erect this two-story brick commercial structure for his dry goods business. The original appearance of Hampton's building has been obscured by later alterations, but it probably closely resembled the Plott Building (C-29) or the Mears Building (C-46) both of which Wray constructed during the decade before 1920. Like his father (see C-48) and brother (see C-45), Ott Hampton became a prominent Canton merchant. His store specialized in dry goods, notions, and ladies' and children's ready-to-wear. Shortly after Hampton opened his store at this location, Wiley Johnson (see C-63 and C-68) returned from his medical studies in New Orleans and set up an office on the second floor of the building.

By about 1940, the Hampton Building had been converted to other uses: the Ideal Billiard Parlor occupied the street level, while Chester Cogburn and Wesley Vrabel maintained law offices on the second floor. Between 1957 and 1965, the building was used by the Canton Savings and Loan Association (see C-94), which made substantial changes to the structure's appearance. Black metal sheathing now surrounds the slightly recessed street-level entrance, and gray marble-like fiberglass panels cover the second story. In more recent years, the Hampton Building has been occupied by Robert Harpe's optometric clinic.

C-57 Martin Building
107 Main Street

Walter S. Martin was born in Hickory, North Carolina in 1880. He moved to Canton in 1910 and established a drug store in the small two-story frame building that occupied this corner of Main Street. It has previously served as the town post office. In addition to prescription drugs, Martin stocked over-the-counter medicines, candy, and household items such as flashlights and fountain pens. A soda fountain, pictured in a 1916 advertisement, was the most popular feature of his establishment. In line with the local "booster's" depiction of Canton as a community that combined the pleasures of small-town living with the advantages of city dwelling, Martin advertised his business as "a drug store of quality and service, comparing favorably with those of larger cities."

Between 1916 and 1920, Martin razed his frame building and hired Merchant's Construction Company of Asheville to erect this distinctive two-story brick commercial building. Designed to accommodate up to seven businesses at street level, with additional office and dwelling space on the upper floor, the Martin Building extends the entire length of Academy Street between Main and Park streets. The structure is faced with a dark red textured brick that is pierced by plate-glass commercial bays on the first floor and by smaller metal-muntined windows on the second story. Classical moldings, executed in wood and sandstone, embellish this long, asymmetrical structure.

Until the 1930s, Walter Martin operated his drug store in the largest Main Street unit of this building, while he and his wife Mary occupied the apartment overhead. The other commercial units were rented by a variety of businesses, including an insurance office, a savings and loan association, a telegraph office, a jewelry store, a barber shop, and a restaurant. When Martin died during the 1930s, his building and drug business were sold separately. Within ten years, Martin's Drug Store had been moved to a newly constructed building (see C-35) on Park Street.

C-58 Sharp Building
109 Main Street

This three-story structure, built around 1910 by W. Turner Sharp (see C-29 and C-59), was one of the earliest brick commercial buildings in Canton. Originally constructed to functions as Canton's expanding post

office, the Sharp Building once had a recessed street-level entrance flanked by big wood-framed commercial bays. A cast- and wrought-iron balcony visually separated the ground-floor commercial activities from the upper-level domestic quarters — occupied by Sharp himself for about ten years. On the second and third stories, the original architectural embellishment survives: round-headed bays are separated by advanced brick piers that extend upward toward a corbelled brick cornice.

In 1923, Sharp moved his family to a newly constructed house (C-28) on Church Street and shortly thereafter, the post office was relocated in a bigger building on Park Street (see C-35). The ground floor of the Sharp Building was subsequently rented by an A&P Grocery Store, while the upper stories functioned intermittently as hotel rooms and as meeting space. In more recent years, the building has housed Sid Watt's appliance store and a discount drug center.

-59 Imperial Hotel Group
111-119 Main Street

Behind these four connected but visually discreet two-story commercial onts is one building: its irregular roof structure is still visible above the arapets of these angular, austere facades. The house at the core of this mplex was a big square-framed and weatherboarded structure that was robably built during the 1880s, just a few years after the railroad arrived in geon River. Originally set back from the street, the dwelling had a mbling appearance created by a variety of gables and turrets, all roughly rganized under a steep pyramidal roof. The texture of the house's surface as varied by round-butt shingle siding on the corner turret and in the gable nds. Embellishment consisted largely of sawn and turned wood detailing n the several porches. The structure was originally painted in two or more ntrasting colors — the fashion favored by Victorian designers.

The house is a rare relic of the period when Canton was enjoying nprecedented commercial prosperity as the westernmost terminus of the ilroad, and at a time when the town seemed to be drifting toward a future s a picturesque mountain resort. This trend was changed when the hampion Fibre Company plant was constructed on the river plain. An direct result of the Mill's construction was the more intensive commercialization of Canton's Main Street.

perial Hotel about 1895, when it was still a dwelling. Original photograph in the ssession of Aurelia Seaman, Canton, N.C.

In 1910, this house was bought by Turner Sharp (see C-28 and C-55). He erected a three-story commercial building (C-58) on the west end of this site and proceeded to remodel the house itself for use as a hotel. Within six years, the frame structure had been nearly doubled in size by the addition of a two-story brick extension and advanced wing that was distinguished by a curving front wall and an entrance with imposing classical moldings and cornice.

Sharp immediately turned the running of the hotel over to Edward and Mae Geir (see C-9), natives of New York who had lived for several years in Bristol, Virginia, before arriving in Canton. The Geirs named the thirty-eight-room facility the Imperial Hotel, and they conceived of it as an establishment that would appeal to traveling businessmen and to newly arrived middle-class employees of the Mill. "Come to Canton to live," they encouraged, "and stop at the Imperial."

Sometime during the 1920s, the faceted front of the Imperial Hotel was enclosed behind the existing brick commercial fronts. Thereafter, various businesses — usually clothing stores — have occupied these street-front units, while the Imperial Hotel continued in operation at the rear and on the upper levels. In more recent decades, the Imperial Hotel, like its Park Street extension, the Canton Hotel (C-34), gradually has come to function as a local rooming or apartment house.

In 1981, a group of local business and professional men purchased the entire Imperial Hotel-Canton Hotel complex from the Sharp family. Aware of the structure's varied and complex history, the new owners renovated its separate components for use as commercial units, professional offices and dwelling space.

-60 McGee Building
121 Main Street

There are men in every community who attain prominence and financial influence by strict adherence to their work or business — by a sterling honesty that is never questioned — by the fulfillment of every promise and obligation.

Such a man, in the estimation of that advertising writer, was W. F. P. cGee (see C-68). Born during the 1860s on Fines Creek in western aywood County, Parker McGee moved to Pigeon River shortly after the ilroad was completed. He set up a place of business on Main Street not far om the depot (C-98), and he began to purchase and ship furs, beeswax, nseng, sassafras, galax, witch hazel, and other potentially valuable

commodities that the local farmers could gather in the mountain forests.

Through McGee, other mountain natives could trade their gleanings for hardware and dry goods — finished products that the railroad could easily transport from flatland manufacturing centers. With the capital from this enterprise, McGee also expanded into wholesale grocerying — an enterprise that was quite lucrative while Canton remained at the end of the rail line.

With the coming of Champion Fibre Company, McGee found that an increasing number of his customers were town-dwelling mill workers who traded their labor for hard cash. They had little time or opportunity to roam the mountain landscape in search of natural riches. McGee responded by becoming a dealer of general merchandise and, subsequently, of dry goods — especially fabric, notions, and ladies' clothing.

McGee made a good living in his rapidly changing community and by 1915, he was able to commission construction of this two-story commercial building on Main Street. Faced with a slick pressed brick laid up with very thin mortar joints, the McGee Building is distinguished by a corbelled brick cornice and pedimented parapet. The paired windows of the second story are embellished with molded concrete sills and flat arches. The original commercial front has been drastically altered, but an old photograph of this structure indicates that it once had recessed entrances flanked by wood-framed plate-glass windows.

-61 Freeman-Hudson Building
125-127 Main Street

This commercial building was designed to enclose two businesses on e ground floor, and early photographs of the structure indicate that each the units was originally fitted with an entrance and surrounding plate-ass windows that were set flush with the facade of the building. The store aces are separated by a round-headed doorway that provides access to the

second story. This upper level — always used for professional offices — is illuminated by five windows. Continuing the visual partitioning of this structure into three parts, the central window has a segmental-arched opening, while each of the four flanking windows is distinguished by jack arches with sandstone end voussoirs and keystones. In addition to these embellishments, the Freeman-Hudson Building has some of the most interesting brickwork to be found in Canton's commercial district. A section of recessed headers and stretchers creates a cross pattern at the second-story floor level, and header bricks, set forward and at an oblique angle to the facade, create an arresting, jagged cornice design.

The Freeman-Hudson Building was constructed around 1910 by Charles Wells (see C-43 and C-95), who intended to rent the building to some of the many businessmen and professionals attracted to this growing factory town. Over the years, the structure has sheltered a pool hall, two barber shops, a drug store, and numerous clothing stores. One of the first tenants of the second story was Wiley Johnson (see C-63 and C-68), a locally prominent physician. In more recent decades, the upper-level office space was rented by Drs. Robert and Margaret Owen — perhaps the best remembered occupants of the building. Today, the Freeman-Hudson Building is owned by Charles Wells' two daughters.

C-62 Wells Building
131-137 Main Street

Until about 1915, this site was occupied by a two-story frame dwelling with a two-story front porch and one-story rear extensions. At that early time, Main Street slanted uninterrupted down toward the depot (C-98): Park Street was not yet a defined thoroughfare. Sometime between 1915 and 1920, Charles Wells (see C-43 and C-95) purchased this lot and constructed the present brick building in two or three phases. The easternmost section — extending between the oblique corner bay and the entrance to the second-story office space — was built first. Shortly thereafter, the section defined by the three westernmost windows was added. A change in the texture of the brick facing indicates that this extension may have been built as a one-story commercial unit and raised to two stories sometime before 1930. Concrete lintels and sills, rowlock courses of brickwork, and brick corbelling provide the only embellishment to this commercial structure. Its angular, austere appearance suggests that Wells and his builder were attempting to give this building the severe, utilitarian look that was coming to be considered appropriate for the twentieth-century world of production and commerce.

Like many of the other structures (C-32 and C-61) that he erected in downtown Canton, Wells intended this building to be used as rental property. Over the years, the first-story space has been occupied at various times by a newsstand, a bakery, a variety store, a clothing store, and a tea

room. In 1930, Pete Jones moved his Canton Drug Store to this location and gave the building its most enduring identity.

When he commissioned construction of this building, Wells apparently knew that his youngest son planned to study dentistry: he had the upper story designed to function comfortably as professional offices, and he kept the space vacant while his son completed his training. In 1925, Carey Wells (see C-69) indeed did begin to practice dentistry at this location, and he maintained his offices here until about 1970.

C-63 Johnson-Matthews Office
Edwin Haynes Insurance Agency
Paul Stapf Chiropractic Clinic
44 Academy Street

Wiley C. Johnson (see C-68) was born in Pigeon River in 1887. As a young man, he pursued medical studies at the University of North Carolina and at Tulane University. He returned to his native community to practice in 1912, establishing physician's offices successively on the second floor of Ott Hampton's building (C-56) and on the upper level of the Freeman-Hudson Building (C-61). Though he remained in private practice throughout his career, he also became company physician for Champion Fibre Company in 1927. Several years later, he commissioned construction of this private office building on Academy Street.

It is uncertain who was engaged to design this one-story bungalow office, but the rough granite masonry was executed by local builder R. R. Gaddis, whose skillful stonework also distinguishes the James Wells House on Newfound Street (C-18). Situated on a lot that marks a transition between Canton's business district and residential sections, the Johnson Office has some features of both commercial and domestic designs. The clipped-gable roof gives the structure a cottage-like appearance. The substantial *porte cochere* provided practical access to patients arriving by car and gives the visual impression that this simple little building has a

rambling, complex form. The original plan of the building included a waiting room, a private office, a laboratory, an operating room, a bedroom, and a dressing room.

Johnson continued to practice here until his death in 1943. Some four years later, Hugh Matthews (see C-70) established his physician's practice in this building. In the 1960s and 1970s, the structure housed the Edwin Haynes Insurance Agency. More recently, it has been occupied by the Paul Stapf Chiropractic Clinic.

C-64 Robinson House
69 Academy Street

This dwelling was probably built around 1900, and it is typical of the substantial but unpretentious houses that characterized Canton during that era. Set on a high brick foundation that evens out the hillside site, the structure is built of wood framing members that were originally sheathed with weatherboarding. Sometime after 1950, asbestos shingles were applied to the exterior. This square-plan, three-bay house has four first-story rooms arranged on two sides of a central stair passage. A fifth original room is enclosed in a rear ell. Several upstairs rooms are enclosed beneath the steeply pitched hipped roof. Over the years, the original front porch has been replaced by the present brick-based structure, an original rear porch has been supplanted by a shed-roofed addition, and a *porte cochere* has been built onto the east side.

This house is known as the former residence of Sam Robinson, a well known local attorney who, for some time, served as Canton's legal counsel. Today, the structure is used for law offices.

C-65 Locust Field Academy (site)
First Baptist Church
74 Academy Street

In 1803, motivated by the exhortations of a newly arrived missionary, twenty-four residents of this mountain valley assembled to form a Baptist church. Named after the hilltop site on which its first church building was constructed (see C-72), the Locust Field Church was, until 1875 (see C-26), the only established church in the community of Pigeon River. Around the

middle of the nineteenth century, Locust Field Academy, a private school affiliated with the Baptist church, was chartered by the state legislature. An early map of Canton indicates that the academy building, which was constructed on this site, was an L-plan two-story brick structure with a single-story front porch. An old photograph shows that the building was laid up in five-course common bond and that it was heated by at least one gable-end chimney. The six-over-six double-hung sash windows had proportions that suggest the school building was embellished with Greek Revival details. Eventually, this local institution gave a name to the street which follows an old trail leading from the river up to the Locust Field Church and out along a mountain ridge to the Dutch Cove community.

Between 1890 and 1910, the arrival of the railroad and construction of the Mill caused Canton to grow rapidly. The Locust Field congregation multiplied, as did the town's population of school children. A more formalized municipal government took on the responsibility of public education, and between 1910 and 1915 both the Locust Field Church building and the academy were razed to make way for the construction on this site of a larger Baptist church. The resulting building was one of the most elaborate and imposing structures ever to have been built in Canton.

Erected to the equivalent of two stories, the building was set on a raised stone ashlar foundation. The red brick walls were distinguished by parapet gable-end walls, salient buttresses with stone caps, and corbelled arches — all decorative features of the Romanesque Revival style. The numerous round-headed windows were glazed with opalescent stained glass. The cruciform plan created a steep pyramidal roof, and entrance was provided at the northwest corner through the base of an imposing three-story tower. This monumental building represented a shift in the perception that the Locust Field Baptist Church had of itself and its community, and the change was recognized when the congregation replaced its original bucolic-sounding name with a more civic one: First Baptist Church.

During the twentieth century, the First Baptist Church has remained one of Canton's largest and most influential institutions. In 1958, the congregation responded to perceived spatial needs by channeling its resources toward replacing the old Romanesque Revival structure with the existing building. The new First Baptist Church is a large-scaled nave-plan structure built of modern pressed brick and decorated with neoclassical details similar to those that were popular in the early nineteenth-century Federal period. The side walls are each pierced by five round-headed fanlighted windows. The tetrastyle portico has sandstone Doric columns. The central doorway is embellished by an exuberant swan's neck pediment, while the two flanking entrances are surmounted by less elaborate triangular pediments. The slate-clad gable roof supports an elongated spire that makes this structure visible from most parts of Canton.

C-66 St. Andrews Episcopal Church
99 Academy Street

St. Andrews Episcopal Church is one of the most architecturally interesting buildings in Canton. It combines the tidy scale and Gothic Revival details that characterized nineteenth-century English parish churches with a fabric of indigenous mountain river rocks.

This lot was vacant until 1922, when the local Episcopalian community initiated construction of this building. They financed the project with profits from the sale of their Fibreville mission (C-99) and with private donations, including substantial ones made by William Bell, a locally prominent car dealer (see C-27). Until the structure could be completed, the nascent congregation met alternately at the Canton Presbyterian Church (C-23), the Strand Theater (see C-31), and the Champion Y.M.C.A. (C-97). Memories of the actual building of St. Andrews Church focus on a day in 1921 when members and friends of the congregation traveled to Sunburst in the southern part of Haywood County to gather smooth rocks from along the East Fork of the Pigeon River. The selected rocks were transported to Canton on flat cars of Champion's narrow-gauge railway and then hauled by wagon to the Academy Street lot. The whole process was made festive with a church picnic.

This nave-plan church building is distinguished by salient buttresses with sandstone coping and lancet, or pointed-arch doorways and windows. The principal entrance is on the southwest corner, at the base of a crenellated bell tower. The terra cotta-tiled roof is supported by a hammer-beam structure that is exposed and polished on the interior. In 1960, a small rock-faced frame annex was built onto the north side of the church.

C-67 Bailey House
122 Academy Street

This site was originally occupied by a two-story central-passage-plan house. A bracketed and shingled double porch distinguished this modest framed and weatherboarded house. Built around 1880, it became the residence of Turner and Nova Hampton Sharp (see C-28 and C-58) shortly after they were married in 1896.

Around 1920, J. T. and Christobel Bailey bought this property. They moved the original dwelling to the east corner of the lot and built the existing two-story brick house. Finished with a textured brick veneer, the Bailey House has a double file of rooms set on two sides of a central passage. The truncated hipped roof is covered with terra cotta tiles. A heavy classical cornice runs continuously beneath the eaves of a west wing, front porch, and east *porte cochere.* Originally, a wooden balustrade further united these three single-story elements. Restrained Colonial Revival embellishment links this house stylistically to the Sharp-Owen House (C-28), which was built on Church Street at about the same time.

Bailey built this imposing house as a symbol of his position as a notable citizen of Canton. He ran a successful wholesale grocery business on Depot Street, was involved with the incorporation and operation of the Canton Electric and Telephone Company (see C-30), and served for a time as

Dwelling formerly located on the site of the Bailey House. Original photograph in the possession of Aurelia Seaman, Canton, N.C.

Canton's mayor. The Baileys were also staunch supporters of their church. At the time of their death, ownership of this house was transformed to the Canton Presbyterian Church (C-23). It began to function as the Presbyterian manse in 1975.

C-68 McGee-Johnson House
5 Bailey Street

Local tradition maintains that W. F. Parker McGee built this house, probably just a few years after he commissioned construction of his store building on Main Street (C-60). Planned to include several apartments, this big framed and shingled residence has a rustic, quaint, informal appearance that is uncommon for a structure of its size. The house is set on a rock foundation, and a brick- and stone-chimney stack distinguishes the south wall. The clipped-gable roof is supported by a structure of rafters and purlins that are exposed at the eaves. One of the most inviting — as well as visually arresting — features of the house is the two-story front porch. Set on a rock foundation, the porch is supported on the first story by shellacked wooden piers and arches. Above a dentillated cornice, the second-story porch is supported by chamfered posts and diagonal up braces.

In 1924, Wiley Johnson (see C-63) bought this building and transformed it into a single-family residence. Eight years later, he added Colonial Revival details to the interior. The house was occupied by members of the Johnson family until about 1980.

C-69 Hampton Heights Group
Hampton Heights

At the turn of the century, the hill across which this street extends was part of W. J. Hampton's tract — his house (C-93) was situated on its lower northwest face. First called Hamilton Street, presumably after the Ohio town where the original Champion plant was located, the name was quickly changed to Hampton Heights in recognition of the street's most numerous property holders. Hampton Heights was laid out around 1910 not only to connect Academy Street and Church Street but also to provide convenient and desirable elevated dwelling sites for Canton's rapidly growing population. By 1940, some nineteen residences had been built along the street. They were modest but substantial dwellings that were commissioned or purchased for the most part by middle-class store owners, professional men, and management-level employees of the Mill.

Deas House
9 Hampton Heights

This plain framed and weatherboarded dwelling has an L-shaped arrangement of rooms set beneath a hipped roof. For several decades, it was the home of mill employee J. E. Deas, his wife, and their six children.

Deas House.

Auberry-Hemphill House
14 Hampton Heights

This two-story framed house is oriented with its gable end toward the treet. Probably built in the first decade of the twentieth century, the house ustained substantial remodeling around 1960: a two-story extension was dded to the north side, the roof pitch was lowered and the original eatherboarding was replaced by asbestos shingles. For many years, this ouse was the residence of Champion employee Mark Auberry and his mily.

Auberry-Hemphill House.

Sheffield House
15 Hampton Heights

The best-known resident of this square-plan hip-roofed bungalow was illiam E. Sheffield. Born in Haywood County's Bethel community in 81, Sheffield managed a store in Buncombe County before moving to nton in 1908. He opened a barbershop, advertising it as "an up-to-date ace" where originally customers could enjoy a bath as well as a haircut d a shave. Beginning in 1914, Sheffield served Canton for a number of ars as an alderman.

Sheffield House.

Fowler-Tate House
17 Hampton Heights

Located at the crest of Hampton Heights, this framed, weather boarded, and shingled dwelling has the tapering porch piers that are standard feature of many bungalows. The house was constructed in 190 by L. N. Fowler, who functioned as treasurer of Champion's Blac Diamond coal mining operations in east Tennessee. Eventually, the hous became the property of Fowler's son-in-law, J. Earl Tate, a manager of th Canton Electric and Telephone Company (see C-30).

Battison-Reeves House
19 Hampton Heights

As it was originally built during the first decade of this century, thi was a square-plan one-story house with a steeply pitched hipped roof. porch extended between projecting gables on the west and south sides. A early as 1918, it was owned by William Battison, master mechanic in charg of the Repairs and Alterations Department at the Mill. Born in Canada an reared in Chicago, Battison got early training and employment in the fiel of mechanics among the pulp and paper mills of Hull in Quebec. He sub sequently took a job with Champion in Hamilton, Ohio and moved on t

Fowler-Tate House.

Battison-Reeves House.

the Canton pulp mill in 1907. During the 1930s, Battison substantially renovated this house. He raised it to two stories, gave it a front-facing gable, and enclosed the entire structure — including the original porch — in a pressed brick veneer embellished with Vernacular Revival details.

Lilly-Wells House
20 Hampton Heights

This two-story house has a wood frame that was originally covered in weatherboarding. A one-story porch sheltered the east and south sides. Probably built around 1910, it had become the property of J. N. Lilly, Chief Wood Inspector of the Mill, by 1920. Sometime during the next decade, Lilly sold this house to Carey Wells, youngest son of local merchant Charles Wells (see C-43 and C-95), who had established a dental practice in Canton (see C-62). Wells commissioned an extensive remodeling of the house. The structure was set onto a raised basement, the south portion of the one-story porch was enclosed, and a pressed brick casing was applied to the entire structure. Restrained classical trim was added to the dwelling. In the early 1950s, this house became the property of Carey Wells, Jr. (see C-54) who added a rear one-story ell and garage.

Lilly-Wells House.

Phillips-Stamey House
21 Hampton Heights

This one-and-a-half-story brick dwelling has the low rambling rrangement of rooms associated with the bungalow form, but it is em-ellished with the more regular, formal details of the Colonial Revival style. was built around 1915 by George H. Phillips, director of Safety and /elfare at the Mill and editor of Champion's company publication, *The og*. Since the 1960s, the house has been the residence of Canton town anager William G. Stamey.

Phillips-Stamey House.

Hampton-Moore-Trostel House
22 Hampton Heights

Built in 1938 by Jack and Virginia Hampton, this two-story brick use has a distinctive Vernacular Revival character created by the boards bedded in the textured brickwork in a way that resembles exposed uctural members. Tumble courses of brick represent the masonry infill or gging that was common to English half-timbered construction. During early 1960s, this house became the residence of North Carolina vernor Dan K. Moore. By 1970, it had been sold to George H. Trostel.

Hampton-Moore-Trostel House.

Edgerton-Illingworth House
23 Hampton Heights

Local tradition maintains that this house had been erected by 1910. It may have been constructed originally as a duplex; at least by 1942, it was partitioned into two living units. The present appearance of this dwelling is a result of substantial remodeling executed by George Edgerton — an engineer at Champion — and Margaret Hampton Edgerton, who bought the house around 1950. Within fifteen years, the Edgertons had moved to Hamilton, Ohio, and this house had become the property of the Illingworth family.

Hampton-Watts House
26 Hampton Heights

This house, which originally faced Academy Street, apparently predates the laying out of Hampton Heights and may be the earliest structure on the hill. Constructed as a one-story hip-roofed, framed and weatherboarded dwelling, the house was apparently occupied by members of the Hampton family from the beginning. Around 1935, Ott Hampton (see C-56) drastically altered the house. He had it raised to two full stories, gave it a textured brick veneer and classical details, and oriented it to face

lampton Heights. The house remained in the Hampton family until about 960, when it was bought by Sid Watts.

Edgerton-Illingworth House.

Hampton-Watts House.

Visible in the background of this picture is the Hampton-Watts House as it appeared around 1905, some years before it was remodeled and reoriented. Original photograph in the possession of Aurelia Seaman, Canton, N.C.

Keener Apartments
28 Hampton Heights

This five-bay brick apartment building was constructed in what was riginally the front yard of the Hampton-Watts House. At about the time hat structure was remodeled, Herschel Keener, who worked in the Wood rocurement Office at Champion, had this building erected. Built to two-nd-a-half stories, the Keener Apartments are embellished with the classical etails that remained popular for domestic construction throughout the wentieth century. Brick quoins define the corners of the building itself and f the advanced central bay, and a segmental-arched pedimented stoop helters the main entrance.

Keener Apartments.

C-70 Coleman-Matthews House
145 Academy Street

This sturdy framed and weatherboarded house was built within the first decade of this century, and unlike many Canton dwellings that survive from that era, its appearance has never been substantially changed. Built to two stories, the main block of this house has squarish proportions and sparse, severe detailing. A pyramidal roof is covered with diamond-shaped tiles and pierced by a central brick chimney. A shed-roofed porch protects the north and west sides of the house. The rear sheds, hyphens, and garages are much later additions. Extending along the edge of the lot is a river rock retaining wall that dates from the 1920s, when the streets of Canton's principal residential sections were excavated so that sewers and water lines could be installed.

It is not known who constructed this house. By the 1940s, it was the residence of Robert D. Coleman, who worked as a salesman for the Champion Paper and Fibre Company, and his wife. By the early 1950s, the house had been sold to local physician Hugh Matthews (see C-63).

C-71 Sharp-Smathers House
134 Academy Street

It is only the advanced northwest bay that disturbs the square plan and bilateral symmetry of this two-story framed structure. This fact of its design has been obscured by the rather complex roof form: various projecting gables are arranged around a steep gable-on-hip structure.

The house was built in 1912 by Turner Sharp (see C-28 and C-67), who was probably already living with his family on the second and third stories of the post office building (see C-58) he had erected on Main Street. This Academy Street structure remained in the Sharp family for several decades, apparently always in use as rental property. Sometime around 1940, it was converted into an apartment house and some years after that, the original weatherboarding was replaced with asbestos siding. In the 1960s, the building was sold to the Smathers family.

C-72 Locust Field Baptist Church (site)
Locust Field Cemetery
Academy Street at Locust Street

Locust Field Cemetery is located on the crest of a hill that rises southeast of the Canton commercial district, which roughly corresponds to the limits of the nineteenth-century Pigeon River settlement. The ridge of this high place extends westward along Pennsylvania Avenue (C-74) and continues to the east, following Dutch Cove Road. The hill falls sharply away to the south, toward Highland Park (C-79).

River rock and concrete entrance to the cemetery, erected around 1920, after the Baptist church was removed to Academy Street.

To the casual observer, Locust Field appears to be largely an early wentieth-century cemetery. A river rock and concrete arch, erected around 920, punctuates the entrance and the northernmost corner of the emetery, and visually dominates the site. Furthermore, a majority of the ravestones and furniture, such as curbs, steps, fences, and boundary arkers date from the years between 1910 and 1930. There is some irony in

rtially legible granite marker for the grave of Joh__A__Nos____ may date from the late hteenth century. The only visible date — 1728 — presumably is the year of birth.

this: the period during which Canton's population was growing most rapidly was also the time when the burial ground was most heavily used. This first impression is misleading.

It is said that Locust Field Cemetery is the oldest graveyard in Haywood County, and a local tradition maintains that the first burial occurred here when a passing Revolutionary War soldier became ill and died of "cramp colic." While this story is somewhat improbable in its details, it is possible that the cemetery predates the 1803 establishment of

Earliest of the legible handmade stones marks the grave of "Roady Clay [who] was Bor 1817 D. 1817."

ocust Field Baptist Church. Humphrey Posey, the Baptist missionary who imulated interest in the formation of a congregation, and the other charter embers originally called their fragile little institution "Locust Old Field aptist Church." In newly settled regions of the upland South, "old field" as a term used to designate areas that had been cleared and occupied by e native Indian population. Possibly, this hilltop site was such an Indian eld, and perhaps the first white settlers to the area had begun to gather ere for burials.

Locust Field Baptist Church was apparently the first church of any enomination to be established west of the French Broad River. The first urch building, like most of the early nineteenth-century structures in estern North Carolina, was composed of hewn logs. Shortly before the

avestone erected "In Memory of Rebacak A. Smathers [who] Was Born March 9, 1832 C. June 4, 1837."

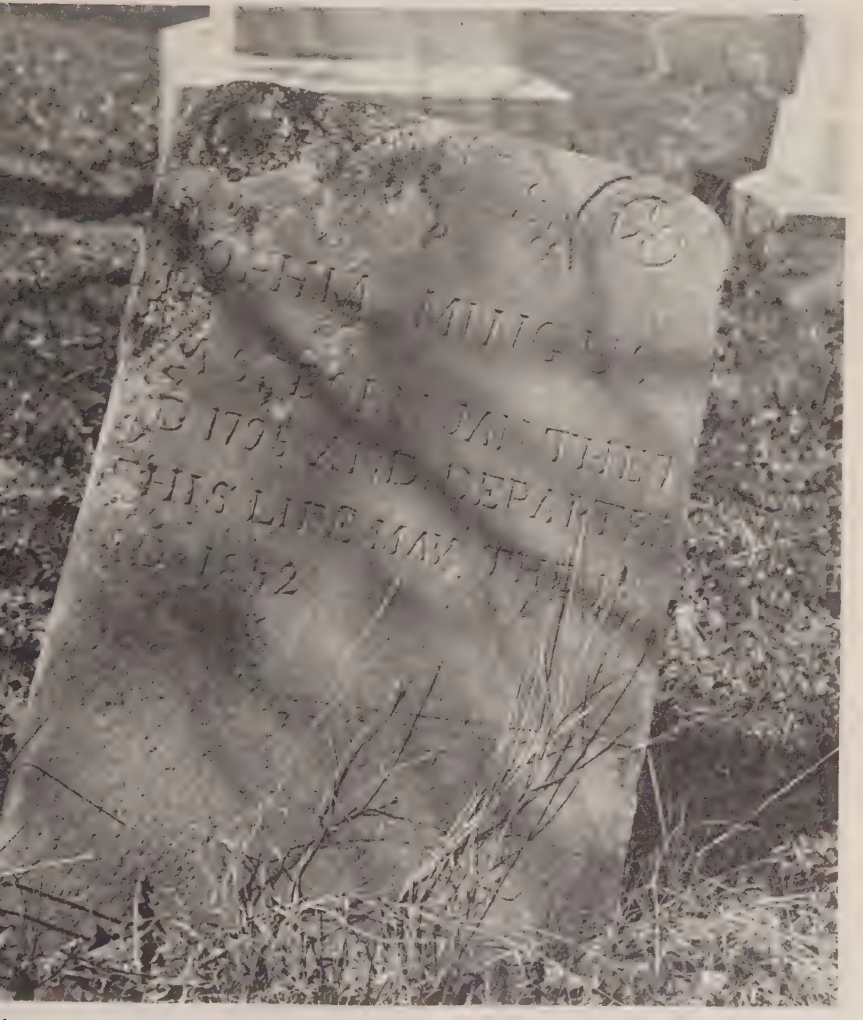
Civil War, this building was demolished and replaced by a more commodious framed and weatherboarded structure. A photograph taken between 1905 and 1910 indicates that this was a four-bay nave-plan church with a gable-end entrance oriented toward the northeast. At the opposite end of the building was a small polygonal apse. An open arched and balustraded bell tower and steeple distinguished this plain building. Between 1910 and 1915, the frame church building was demolished and a new, more imposing brick structure was erected at a site on Academy Street (see C-65). Sometime thereafter, the care of Locust Field Cemetery was turned over to the Canton town government. It is still in use today as the town's public cemetery.

The Locust Field Cemetery contains gravestones fashioned according to every style that was popular in nineteenth- and twentieth-century America, but the most important stones are the some thirty markers that are carved by hand from local sandstone and granite. The legible stones date

Grave marker recording that "Sary L. Cabe Was Born August the 13, 1819 Died January [sic] the 18, 1859 Aged 39 Years and Five Months."

om as early as 1817, and there is reason to conclude that this surviving roup represents only a fraction of the original assemblage. All of the arkers were erected during decades before the railroad made a wider range f materials and craftsmanship available to Pigeon River residents, and they re the results of a sequestered community's attempts to provide for its own eeds.

Some of these stones are very rough, suggesting that the maker or the rvivors were more concerned with permanently designating the site of the ave than with making sentimental or stylistic statements. Among the

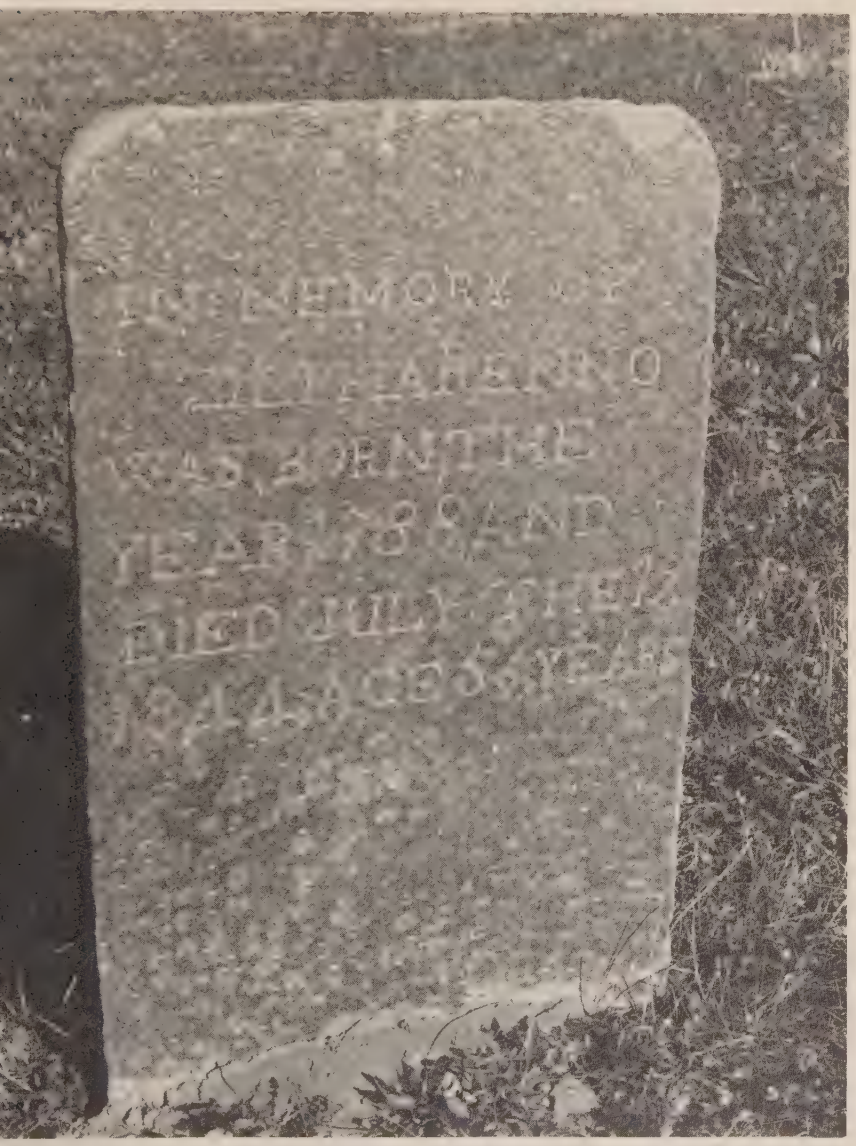


ketchy willow tree and compass-inscribed circles and arcs decorate this gravestone: phia Mingus Was Born Jan. the 7 A.D. 1795 And Departed This Life May The 14 A.D. 2."

markers are many with irregular shapes, simple embellishments, or uneven lettering, demonstrating that there were limits to the stonemasons' skills or to the available tools. Some spellings, such as "bornd," "Roady," or "Sary" provide evidence of pronunciations common to these mountain people. In other cases, misspellings and misformed letters — such as a backward N or J — indicate that accomplished literacy was not yet important or available to these nineteenth-century farmers. Most of the gravestones bear names like Smathers, Medford, Cabe, Reno, Hall, and Haynes that are still familiar in Canton today, and it is this fact that most directly demonstrates the importance of these crumbling markers. They represent a continuity between Canton's recent history as a densely settled industrial town with access to and ties with the outside world, and Pigeon River's more distant past as an isolated agrarian community where fields and woodland — and a

This is among the crudest stones in the cemetery, marking the burial site of J. C. Mahafey who died in 1863.

eepy shallow river — dominated the sparsely populated mountain land-
ape.



stone placed "In Memory of Zilpha Reno [who] was Born The Year 1788 And Died July
e 19, 1844, Aged 56 Years," has disappeared recently from the cemetery.

C-73 Pennsylvania Avenue School
9 Pennsylvania Avenue

The coming of the Mill to Canton precipitated a burgeoning of the local population that quickly overtaxed the facilities at the Canton Graded School (C-21). In order to provide for the education of the town's children, the Canton School District — with a charter that distinguished it from the Haywood County School System — sponsored a special bond issue. By 1922, the town had $65,000 to spend for the construction of a new high school building, sited next to the original graded school in North Canton, and a second school for the lower grades, erected across town on Pennsylvania Avenue.

The resulting H-plan flat-roofed brick and concrete Pennsylvania Avenue School is set on a raised basement, where the school cafeteria is located. A molded concrete cornice and concrete copings define the base and top of the parapet wall. Rowlock courses and columns of brick embellish the blank blackboard walls, which alternate with vertical wood-framed banks of windows. The slightly advanced main entrance bay has a classical round-headed doorway flanked by small windows that illuminate the stairways. A polygonal rear wing encloses a combination auditorium/gymnasium.

-74 Pennsylvania Avenue Group
Pennsylvania Avenue

Canton's downtown area is partially bounded by a hill that rises steeply the south, paralleling Main Street between Academy Street and Pisgah ive. During the some twenty years when Canton was a quiet mountain mmunity made accessible to flatland visitors by the railroad, a series of sort hotels — all of them distinguished by rambling forms and numerous rches from which guests could enjoy the views — was constructed along is hillside (see C-44 and C-100). Probably about the time that Champion pre Company set its pulp mill into production on the Pigeon River plain, nnsylvania Avenue was laid out along the crest of this hill. Lots on both les of the street sold, according to a newspaper advertisement, "like tcakes" to individuals who appreciated the advantages of the location. hese were enumerated in the same 1916 newspaper notice:

> The Prettiest Views in Canton . . . Within five minutes of Main Street — Splendid Neighborhood. Nobody to ever cut off your view: natural drainage; plenty of timber and stones on property for base of building: rich soil. . . .

he "Prettiest Views" included unobstructed sight of a smoky, churning lp factory and a rapidly developing commercial district.

The lots seemed to appeal mainly to newly arrived professional employees of Champion. Chief chemist George M. Trostel, statistician Henry

Sechrest House.

D. Sechrest, chemist Joseph C. Dickson, and accountant K. F. Wenz all bought property along this street. Trostel and at least one of his neighbors had moved to Canton from Pennsylvania and, with the good-natured, even playful sense of prerogative that these newcomers often seem to have felt, they named their street Pennsylvania Avenue.

The first house on the street was a framed bungalow built by Henry Sechrest. Within a few years, it was flanked by a number of dwellings —

Trostel House.

tably the Trostel House and the Dickson House — with similar oportions and details: weatherboard and shingle sheathing, low roofs erced by dormers, and broad porches set under the eaves of the house. In suing decades, these bungalows were interspersed with examples of other chitectural styles, such as the gambrel-roofed brick house built by Alton ttoms (see C-55) according to the conventions of the Colonial Revival. harles Branson's brick dwelling, with its off-center entrance, double imney stacks, and arched suggestion of a bake oven, is a Vernacular vival structure that alludes whimsically to seventeenth-century rural glish housing. The cottage-like G. Clay Pegram House, distinguished by front-facing chimney, is another example of this style, which was pecially popular in Canton during the 1930s.

Sites on the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue fall sharply away from e street and face far less dramatic views. For these reasons, they were for e most part improved later than were the south-side lots. A few modest ick and frame bungalows are interspersed with notable examples of the 40s continuation of the Colonial Revival. The houses constructed by yde R. Hoey and S. B. Bottoms have the two-story brick forms, sym- etrical facades, and classical pedimented doorways that emulate the ghteenth-century Georgian style of domestic architecture.

Dickson House.

Bottoms-Peyton House.

Branson-Greeley House.

Pegram House.

Hoey-Smathers House.

Bottoms House.

C-75 Holtzclaw House
170 Academy Street

This house was built around 1900. It is best understood as one of a eries of big frame dwellings (see C-70 and C-71) that were interspersed ong turn-of-the-century Academy Street as it meandered up the hill from lain Street, past the old academy (see C-65), past the Locust Field Baptist hurch (see C-72) and out the mountain ridge toward Dutch Cove. Situated a curve on the south side of the road, this two-story house is constructed f wood framing members that were originally sheathed with weather-oards. Probably during the 1950s, this covering was replaced with sbestos shingles. The hipped roof shelters a structure with a fundamentally ectangular plan. The dwelling's form is made more visually complicated by ie two-story cross-gabled wing that is set back at its southwest corner and y the second-story recessed porch. A Doric-columned, shed-roofed porch nifies these varied elements. Sometime after 1942, this house was par-tioned into two dwelling units.

C-76 Rhodarmer-Rice House
95 Pisgah Drive

This house, like a number of others built at the turn of the century (see C-70, C-71, and C-75), is sited on one of the major old roads that follow the contours of the topography away from the riverside center of town. It was built in 1906 by a member of the Rhodarmer family. The daughter of the original owner married Hugh Cook, and the couple used this house as rental property for a number of years. In 1935, it was rented to Thomas Rice, a master mechanic in charge of repairs and alterations at the Mill. Rice and his wife bought the house five years later.

Built to two stories of wood framing members with weatherboard cladding, the Rhodarmer-Rice House has a rigidly symmetrical appearance. A balanced three-bay facade is consistent with the central-passage plan. The original two-story rear ell is carefully centered under a hipped roof. Two-pane, double-hung sash windows illuminate all of the rooms. Some of the severity of detail is offset by the turned posts and balusters of the original two-story porch.

-77 Rollins Shell Station
Howard Amoco Station
119 Pisgah Drive

Wiley Johnson, a prominent Canton physician (see C-63 and C-68), uilt this little structure around 1930, specifically for use as a gas station. ke the contemporary station on Main Street (C-33), this building is sually dominated by a wood structure that not only shelters the small ree-bay office but also extends forward to create a protected space for fueling cars. The textured brick fabric of the building contrasts with the hite-painted trim of the gable roof. Taken together, they give the structure Colonial Revival appearance. The two concrete-block service bays were dded around 1950.

For many years, Lon C. Rollins ran a Shell Oil Company service station this location. During the early 1960s, the business was taken over by Mac nd Junior Howard, who eventually acquired an Amoco franchise.

C-78 Hutchins House
104 Johnson Street

A. J. Hutchins left his position as principal of Asheville High School in 1924 to move to Canton. In this recently developed industrial town, he organized what eventually became the Haywood County Consolidated School System.

In 1938, Hutchins and his wife commissioned the construction of this house on a quiet corner of Johnson Street. It is a one-story structure built of granite that Hutchins himself selected from nearby Maggie Valley. Set into a bank so that the basement level is above grade on the south side, the Hutchins House has a rustic, aged appearance. The steep hipped roof is distinguished by randomly placed eyebrow vents. On the facade, two advanced hip-roofed bays flank an off-center gable-roofed entrance bay. The round-headed front doorway, the small round-headed coat-closet window, and the front-facing chimney are all popular features of Vernacular Revival dwellings — and they give the house a cozy, cottage-like appeal.

Rather than hire an architect or establish a more informal design process with a local builder, the Hutchins — like many of their contemporaries — selected a house design from one of the numerous nationally available publications. They found this particular house in *Holland's Distinctive Southern Homes*, a special 1938 edition of *Holland's Magazine*

the South. The actual plans were produced by Ye Planry, an architectural rm in Dallas, Texas that specialized in simulating the Old English forms nd details of the Vernacular Revival style. Design and selection processes ke the one represented by the Hutchins House partially explain why the wentieth-century residential sections of many American towns look quite milar.

C-79 Highland Park Group
Pisgah Drive (vicinity)

Once known as Sunburst Road, Pisgah Drive follows the course of an old mountain thoroughfare that linked Pigeon River with the Sunburst and Cruso communities. One block east of the river itself, Pisgah Drive angles away from Canton's Main Street. It follows the south-facing contours of the promontory on which Locust Field Cemetery (C-72) and Pennsylvania Avenue (C-74) are sited and then curves sharply to the south, crossing the broad plain of the Pigeon River and extending into the countryside of southern Haywood County.

The low flatland on either side of Pisgah Drive was, at the turn of the century, mostly the property of the Pharr family. In 1911, this river plain was surveyed and laid out into over a hundred residential lots. According to a contemporary newspaper account, they were quickly sold to some of Canton's many newcomers. The Highland Park subdivision was the single largest new residential development in the newly industrialized community. Unlike most other sections of town, where the irregular topography dictates correspondingly curvilinear streets and property lines, Highland Park could be marked off into a regular grid pattern.

The first houses to be constructed in this subdivision were substantial framed and wood-clad bungalows. By the 1930s, these low-roofed dwellings with their handcrafted appearances were interspersed with the

57 and 59 Wesley Street.

aasonry fabric and steep gabled rooflines of Vernacular Revival houses. A umber of the lots in Highland Park remained vacant, so intermittent esidential construction has continued along its streets through the 1960s.

143 Pisgah Drive.

61 Wesley Street.

60 Poplar Street.

147 Pisgah Drive.

80 Soesbee Group
Anne, Charles and North Streets

Located to the south and west of Pisgah Drive (see C-79) is a deep ley that runs between two spiney ridges. McClure Branch flows through narrow strip of bottom land. Distributed on several acres of this un- omising site are ten houses, all built by Hubert L. Soesbee from masonry manufactured himself. Eight of these structures are situated in the valley ng Anne and Charles streets, and two others are set on the ridge that is ined by North Street.

H. L. Soesbee was born in 1894. He was the son of Irish immigrant rents who had settled in Asheville. Soesbee's first job as a young adult was a logging camp in Swain County, but conditions were poor there, and life s hard for his wife and young children. By 1905, he had moved back to heville, where he found a job with the Asheville Block Company making cks, concrete blocks, and drainage tiles. This firm eventually sent esbee to Canton to run a branch of the business. In 1918, Soesbee went to rk for the Champion Fibre Company as a member of the brick mason's w in the Repairs and Alterations Department. This job, which he held til he retired in 1959, provided him with his first construction experience.

It was at about the same time that Soesbee acquired this property off gah Drive. Using sand and water from the creek to make most of his own ilding materials, Soesbee began construction of a house for his family. He

37 North Street.

worked during his spare time — often well into the night. Built principally of molded concrete blocks, this house at 37 North Street has gable ends finished distinctively with shiner courses of brick. An inset porch is supported by river rock piers that are connected by river rock rails and

River rock piers and rails of the porch at 37 North Street.

usters. Although his home was completed by 1924, Soesbee continued to band and alter it for many years thereafter.

Between 1924 and 1950, Soesbee constructed nine other dwellings on

13 Anne Street and 35-37 North Street.

35-37 North Street and 9-11 Anne Street.

his land. Each house is composed of several kinds of masonry, usually handmade. Much of it is laid up in unusual patterns, or is juxtaposed to achieve interesting colors and textures. On the concrete-block walls of the house at 35 North Street, an amalgam of river rocks and mortar is molded to the corners in the shape of quoins. Many of Soesbee's architectural details — such as the river rock window lintels and sills on the house at 74 Charles Street — involve the use of masonry for purposes that are normally considered inappropriate. They therefore create visually startling effects.

During his lifetime, Soesbee maintained these various houses as rental property. Today, a number of them are occupied by members of the Soesbee family. Several of his children remember that, when asked why he continued to build, Soesbee would simply reply: "People need houses." An article in Champion's *The Log* praised his industry: "This is a good example of what a man can do who sticks to his job, works regularly, saves his money, and spends it wisely."

80 Charles Street.

76-78 Charles Street.

74 Charles Street.

74½ Charles Street.

-81 Powell-Pless House
132 Pisgah Drive

The most distinctive feature of this framed and weatherboarded house ts scale. Set on a high brick foundation that accommodates the sloping e, the structure appears to have outgrown its standard-size apertures and ails. The gambrel roof tends to give this house a Colonial Revival look, t the two-over-two double-hung sash windows and the turned posts and lusters of the porch are features more common to late Victorian domestic sign.

This house was built in 1916 by Champion employee Charles Powell d his wife Muriel. They may have originally planned that the second story their new home should function as a separate residence. By at least 1942, had been partitioned to form a duplex. The first story of the house was cupied by Joseph and Eva Powell and their son Carl. Frank and Keitha mpbell lived on the upper story. A third couple occupied the apartment cated over the nearby garage. In 1965, Carl Powell sold this house to the ss family.

C-82 Russell-Owen House
136 Pisgah Drive

This house is said to have been built by J. H. Russell, a physician who was practicing in Pigeon River as early as 1884. His distinctive residence is a modest-sized structure that is visually dominated by a broad and steep clipped-gable roof. The framed and weatherboarded fabric of the dwelling is visible behind the segmental-arched bays of the shingle-clad porch. A shed-roofed garage was added to the rear of the house sometime around 1950.

It is the encasing porch structure that provides this house with its stylistic identity. Russell probably built his house around 1890, and he had it executed in an architectural style that was relatively new at the time. The Shingle style is characterized in domestic design by prominent roof structures that often sweep down to shelter a veranda, by wood-shingle siding that is stained in earth tones, and by dormers, turrets, or projections — such as the south-side *porte cochere* — with varied and interesting shapes. The form and fabric of the Shingle style was meant to be reminiscent of early New England architecture, and it was designed to provide the viewer with a quieter effect than that usually intended by the more ornate Victorian styles.

In 1937, this unique structure had become the residence of Francis W. Kirkpatrick. Five years later, it was owned by Birdie E. Smathers. In more recent years, it has been an Owen family home.

-83 Sprinkle-Daniel House
150 Pisgah Drive

Located at the corner of Pisgah Drive and Poplar Street is the largest nd most imposing Vernacular Revival house in Canton. It was built etween 1936 and 1939 by Marion C. Sprinkle (see C-38), a native of ladison County who began his career as an employee of Swannanoah aundry in Buncombe County. In 1922, he opened a laundry in Canton. He id his sons eventually became prominent members of the town's business ommunity.

Sprinkle engaged architect Henry Irvin Gaines to design this structure. aines had first worked in Greenville, South Carolina, but during the 1920s oved his practice to Asheville, attracted by the economic prosperity and tendant rebuilding of the mountain city. The standing building for which aines is best known is the Coca-Cola Bottling Company in Asheville.

The house Gaines designed for Sprinkle is a two-story textured brick ass with an off-center granite entrance bay. The steep hipped roof has a omplex arrangement of planes and angles that incorporate single- and ouble-pile sections, a front-facing gable, and a one-story north wing and orch. The metal-muntined windows are designed to look like the casement indows that originally would have illuminated the seventeenth-century anor houses this big dwelling was meant to emulate.

In 1971, the house was purchased from J. L. Sprinkle by the Canton esbyterian Church (C-23) for use as a manse. The following year, local otometrist Charles Daniel bought it.

C-84 North Carolina National Guard Armory
81 Penland Avenue

Early insurance maps and business directories of Canton indicate that for many years, the upper stories of various downtown commercial buildings served as local armory facilities. In 1936, this two-story square-plan armory was built at a cost of $40,000. Concrete sills, copings, and battlements give the structure an appropriate fortress-like appearance. The crisp, angular lines of the building are derived from the Art Deco architectural style that prevailed during the 1930s. Sited on the river plain near the municipal swimming pool and recreation park, the high school football stadium (see C-85) and the community softball field, the armory has functioned as an informal center for many of Canton's sports events and recreational activities. In 1979, the National Guard closed this Canton facility, and ownership of the structure itself reverted to the town government. Since then, the office has been renovated for use as a senior citizens' center and for the offices of the Canton Recreation Commission.

C-85 Canton High School
Canton Junior High School
70 Penland Avenue

In 1929, the Canton community voted to allocate $260,000 in public funds for the construction of three new school buildings. The only one of these to be erected within the town limits was the Canton High School. Completed in 1931, it replaced the addition to the old Canton Graded School (C-21) as the location of all the upper-level public schooling in town. This building served that function until around 1960, when a separate junior high school was constructed immediately to the south. In the late 1960s, the Canton School System was incorporated into a larger county system that consolidated all of the educational responsibilities of the county into fewer and larger facilities. At that time, a new high school complex was constructed on a nearby hill, and this building became part of an expanded Canton Junior High School.

This building is constructed to two stories above a raised basement. It is essentially an L-shaped structure with an extra facet at the northeast corner that functions as the building's facade. The flat-roofed brick structure is embellished with rectilinear patterns of brickwork between banks of large-scaled double-hung sash windows. More pronounced stylistic statements are confined to the facade, where two flights of brick and concrete steps flank a central entrance. Multiple doorways are set behind a broad segmental-arched entrance. On the upper story, carved

sandstone pediments surmount the three central windows, and sandston copings terminate advanced columns of brickwork.

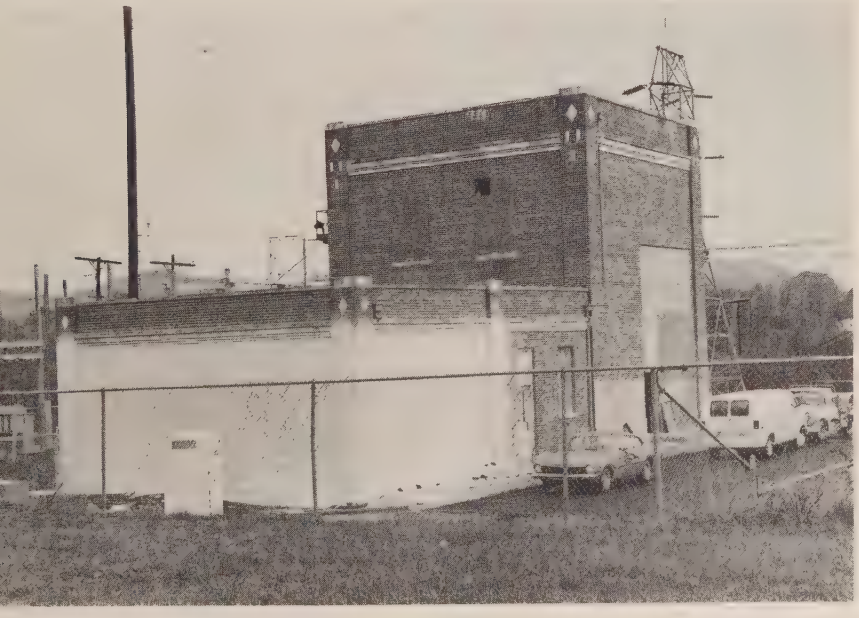
Directly to the east and across Penland Avenue is a significant auxiliar site. A concrete and river rock structure combines stands, locker rooms ticket offices, and entrances to the high school football field.

C-86 Carolina Power and Light Substation
Carolina Power and Light Control Center
Substation Road

In the early twentieth century, electricity was supplied to various parts f Haywood County by small, independent, locally operated power ompanies. Two of these concerns were the Haywood County Electric ower Company and the Great Smoky Mountain Electric Power Company, rmed respectively in 1904 and 1918. In 1909, the Canton Electric and elephone Company (see C-30) was established. This local business bought ectricity from the Champion Fibre Company and distributed it throughout anton and Clyde. With the Canton Electric and Telephone Company, the wn acquired electric street lights, as well as commercial and residential rvice that was so reliable, according to a 1916 newspaper essay, "that a ord of dissatisfaction has never been expressed."

In 1927, the Carolina Power and Light Company expanded its perations into Haywood County and bought out the scattered local firms. this process, one of the largest power plants in the state was built at Waterville in the western end of Haywood County. The brick and concrete brick and historical detailing of that substantial structure were also used by arolina Power and Light Company in the design of the Canton Substation. oth buildings were constructed in 1929.

Located on a hilltop site near the south end of town, the Canton



Substation has a single-story rectangular control room attached to a two-story square-plan shop for the repair of transformers. Both sections were originally faced with five-course common brickwork that was set forward at the base, along the corners, and at the cornice line, thus emphasizing the structure's rectilinear form. Concrete moldings and copings provided essentially all of the embellishment to this severe little building.

In 1980, as part of a change in the way Carolina Power and Light uses this site, the exterior of the Canton Substation was given a new appearance. Several original bays were filled in with brick and new metal-muntined sash were added to the remaining windows. A stucco veneer was sprayed onto the exterior walls, and a sheet-metal mansard roof was added.

-87 Fincher-Hogan House
58 Penland Avenue

One of the oldest standing structures on the south end of town is the ncher-Hogan House. It was built around 1900 by Joshua Fincher whose dow, Annie S. Fincher, ran a household of nine people here until 1945. that time, the house was sold to Harry Hogan — a shipping clerk at hampion Paper and Fibre Company — and his wife Margaret Furness ogan.

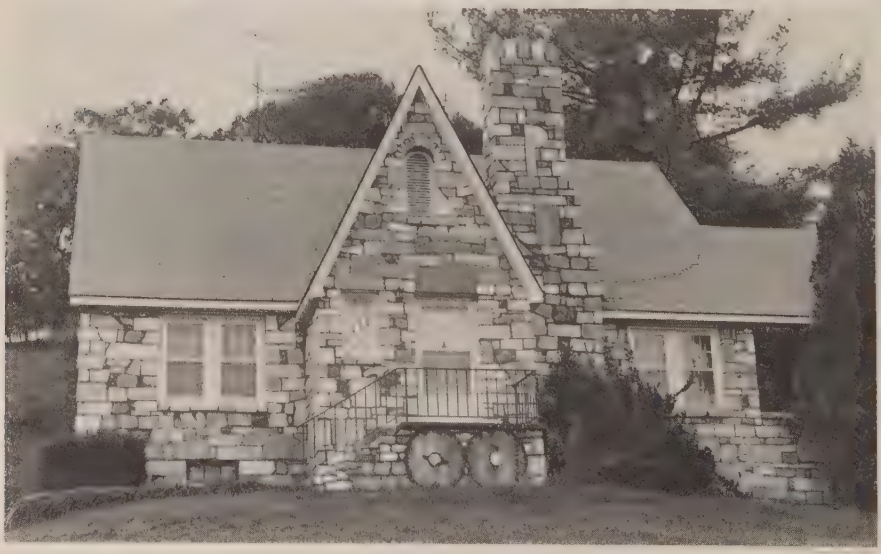
This plain two-story wood-framed house has a symmetrical three-bay cade, suggesting that a central passage provides access to the double file of oms. The windows were originally glazed with two-over-two double- ng sash. Weatherboards — now replaced with asbestos shingling — were e cladding of the exterior walls. Local informants say that the unusual ble-on-hip roof was originally surmounted by a polygonal cupola.

C-88 Poindexter-Cable House
40 Pearl Street

Pearl Street defines one edge of a residential district that was laid out in a random fashion in the south section of town. The oblique angles of several of the streets can be explained by the course of the Pigeon River as it flows through this part of Canton and by the path of a railroad spur, which extends to the southeast from the Champion's wood yard.

Constructed on the hillside overlooking Pearl Street is this distinctive Vernacular Revival dwelling. It was built around 1935 by Canton newcomers Charles and Sophia R. Poindexter. At that time, Poindexter was director of physical education activities at the Champion Y.M.C.A. (C-97) and the Canton High School (C-85). Sophia Poindexter Setzer continued to own the house until 1973, when she sold it to the Wiley Cable family.

The Poindexter-Cable House is a one-and-a-half story rectangular-plan structure with a rear ell, an advanced entrance bay, and a side porch all assembled under a steep gable roof. The diamond-paned window and the front-facing chimney that flank the entrance are characteristic features of this domestic style of architecture (see C-78). The most remarkable quality of this dwelling is its fabric: the walls of the Poindexter-Cable House are composed of irregular courses of ashlar. Most of the variegated stone is granite, but it is liberally interspersed with chunks of marble — some of which have been fluted to look like the remains of columns — and novelty minerals such as mica and pyrite. Among the most whimsical of the decorative details are the granite letter P that is set prominently into the chimney and the two mill burrs that embellish the base of the front stoop.



-89 Felmet Building
23 Penland Avenue

The Felmet Building is an especially important component of Canton's chitectural history. Unlike the other surviving early garages in town (see 27 and C-41), it retains nearly all of its original structural and decorative ments. Located between the Pigeon River and Penland Avenue, the ilding faces what was once the southernmost block of Main Street, nnected to the rest of the commercial district by the original iron truss idge from which Canton took its name. The structure is also represen-ive of an era when automobile ownership and travel were beginning to nsform the American landscape.

Samuel Felmet commissioned the construction of this building in 1916. anned to enclose his living quarters as well as his garage business, the two-ory brick building has a broad gable roof that is concealed on the front hind a parapet wall. The facade is five bays wide with a central ground-or entrance that is large enough to allow an automobile to pass through. n the sides and rear of the structure, many of the original segmental-ched bays have been filled in with brick so that the building might better ve its more recent purpose as a feed store.

Felmet was a member of a Haywood County family. He worked for a mber of years as a locomotive engineer before he took a job in aynesville that provided him with experience working with cars. In 1916, opened his own business at this location. Felmet's Garage was a complex

enterprise offering a variety of products and services. He sold gasoline, new Fords, and used cars of all sorts. He had the equipment to wash and paint cars as well as to perform all kinds of repairs. An "auto livery" made cars and drivers available for rent. Of special value to a population that had little experience with driving, this last service was emphasized in an early newspaper advertisement: "If you want to get there quick, go by auto and let Felmet carry you!"

-90 Old Bell Tavern
Medford Restaurant
111 Park Street

Originally known as the Old Bell Tavern, this log building was con-ucted by R. R. Gaddis, a prominent Canton builder who was best known r river rock masonry (see C-18). Gaddis was commissioned to build this ucture by Charles Smith, president of the Champion Employees' Store -101), manager of the Champion Wood Department, and part-owner of e Smith-Barnes Supply Company.

To acquire materials for this structure, Gaddis dismantled several neteenth-century log structures in rural Haywood County. The original lf-dovetailed corner notching is still visible at corners of the Old Bell vern. To construct the building, Gaddis first built a river rock foun-tion. He then laid the hewn logs horizontally, filling the interstices with a avy plaster material. Because the planned dimensions of the restaurant ilding did not correspond to the lengths of the logs, Gaddis secured the gs to new vertical posts which are set at intervals on each of the exterior lls. On the facade, a section of river rock infill marks the location of the ntral river rock chimney and gives the restaurant the appearance of a ditional "saddlebag" log house. Timbers set into rough-finished plaster the gable ends give the illusion that this building has a king-post roof ucture. Picture windows and an advanced entrance bay are later ad-ions.

In the first several decades of the twentieth century, building designers seemed to associate importance of purpose and official status with crisp, regular brickwork and historical embellishments. The angular masonry and geometric detailing of such commercial and institutional buildings as the Champion Main Office (C-25) and the Pennsylvania Avenue School (C-73) emulate the strictly utilitarian quality that was thought to characterize industrial buildings like those of the Mill. During the same period, builders and owners of domestic structures seemed to have wanted something completely different. For this reason, early twentieth-century dwellings are usually characterized by a cozy, human scale, handmade and earth-toned fabrics, and embellishments that allude to past eras or bucolic settings. As these elements were considered appropriate for domestic design, so they were thought to be suitable for the construction of a home-like, unpretentious restaurant.

-91 Baptist Hill Church
Zion A.M.E. Church
81 Prospect Street

Architectural components of the local black community are rare, for ost of Canton's black population resides in the vicinity of Gibsontown, yond the town boundaries. Since at least the 1930s, however, some black sidential development has been scattered along the broad south-facing lside that parallels Holtzclaw Street.

Situated near the top of this hill at the corner of Northside and Prospect eets is this small church building. It may have been erected as early as 25. It is a one-story, gable-roofed, nave-plan structure that is built of ood framing members. The original weatherboard cladding has been placed with asbestos shingles. Each of the side walls is four bays long. On e west-facing gable end is an advanced single-bay vestibule with a double- or entrance. The existing sash are glazed with six-over-six-light double- ng sash.

The structure was originally built for the black congregation of Baptist ll Church. On week days, the building also functioned as a school for ack children. Members of the local black community remember that it as provided with supplies available at the Canton High School (C-85). uring the 1950s, the Baptist congregation built a new structure. At about e same time, the institution was renamed Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

It is said that Zion A.M.E. Church was first sheltered in a building located on Park Street, near the site of the Canton Post Office (C-36). According to local tradition, this downtown property was leased to the congregation for ninety-nine years by Champion Fibre Company. By at least 1930, the development of the north side of Park Street had forced this Methodist congregation to relocate to some undetermined site. When the Baptist Hill congregation moved, the Zion Church took over this modest little building.

C-92 Allen-Cooper House
2 Cooper Street

Located on a prominent hilltop that overlooks Pharr Branch, this house as built by the Pinner family, probably between 1880 and 1900. It functioned as the domestic seat of a substantial farm that was situated well beyond the boundaries of the Pigeon River community. In its original ontext, then, the site is less a part of Canton's material culture than it is art of the history of rural Haywood County. For several decades, it was wned by John Allen, and it is his family name that is most readily ssociated with this structure. In the 1940s, the Cooper family bought the ouse. It has sustained several remodelings since that time.

The two-story framed and weatherboarded Allen-Cooper House was uilt in keeping with a Victorian preference for asymmetrical house designs. ike the Hampton-Cochran House (C-51), which was erected at about the me time on Main Street in Canton, this dwelling has a straightforward L-haped plan. The beveled corners on the northeast and southeast gable ends ve the house a more convoluted appearance. Visual complexity was also creased by the sawn and turned woodwork that probably once emellished the overshot gables and porch eaves. A single-story rear ell enosed the kitchen of the Allen-Cooper House, and one-story porches shelter oth the front and side entrances.

C-93 Hampton House (demolished) 118 Main Street

When W. J. Hampton arrived in Pigeon River in 1873, this imposing structure was already overlooking the turnpike and the river plain. Hampton opened a general store (see C-48) and bent his energies toward becoming one of the most successful and prominent members of the community. Around 1880, he acquired this structure along with several acres of surrounding property. He moved his family into the house, and by the time of his death in 1928 he had substantially remodeled it twice and had partitioned the hill behind it into residential lots (see C-69). The structure remained in the possession of his daughter Minnie Hampton until 1958, when she sold it to Lorenzo and Underwood Smathers. Subsequently, they demolished the house, graded the site so that it is level with Main Street, and erected Smathers Supermarket (see C-54).

The Hampton House is a special element of Canton's material record, for in its form and details, it illustrated most of the changes that occurred in North Carolina domestic architecture between about 1860 and 1920. It also represents the course of social and economic history in Canton during the same period. The structure was probably built in the 1860s, shortly after the turnpike was constructed through Pigeon River. In this initial stage, it was a two-story single-pile brick house with a three-bay facade and

Hampton House shortly after its 1916 remodeling. Original photograph in the possession of Aurelia Seaman, Canton, N.C.

central-passage plan. Some sort of front porch may have supported a aised platform accessible through an original central entrance on the econd story. Interior gable-end chimneys heated the four principal rooms, nd a gable roof finished the design. In form, the house most closely esembled the Holtzclaw-Taylor House (C-42), which was built near the ord of the Pigeon River at about the same time. In scale and fabric, it might e more closely associated with the contemporary Penland-Wells House (C-5). It probably originally had Italianate woodwork like that which has urvived numerous renovations of the Mears-Lide House (C-44).

When Hampton bought the house, he almost doubled the structure's quare footage with the construction of a rear brick ell. This addition, hich enclosed at least two rooms on each of two stories, had segmental-rched bays rather than the flat-linteled openings that distinguish the riginal part of the house. He also dramatically altered the appearance of he house with an elaborate new Victorian porch. Set on brick piers, the orch was constructed of turned wooden posts that were connected by urned balusters and embellished with sawn and pierced brackets and etwork. The variety of the trim was emphasized with polychrome ainting. The porch design included a shed-roofed gallery that sheltered the rst story of the facade and extended around to the west gable end. At the entral entrance, the porch was constructed to two stories, providing a able-roofed shelter for the second-story doorway. At the northwest corner f the house, a polygonal turret functioned as an asymmetrical decorative ement. It was specifically the turret — as well as the sawn decorative etails — that gave the Hampton House a look that was contemporary with ouses (see C-59) built during the 1880s, when the construction of the ailroad brought a flush of prosperity to Pigeon River.

Finally, in 1916, Hampton again updated the appearance of his esidence. Responding to the wishes of his daughter Minnie, Hampton emolished the Victorian porch and replaced it with a much more sub-antial Colonial Revival structure. A single-story gallery extended beyond he facade to flank the east and west gable ends. The shed roof was sup-orted by Doric columns set on brick piers, and these elements were con-ected by a Colonial Revival interpretation of a Georgian balustrade. The allery was interrupted at the central bay of the facade by a massive two-ory tetra-style Doric portico. The whole design restored to the Hampton ouse the original emphasis on symmetry and imparted a new look of rominence and venerability. This effect was reinforced by the brick and oncrete steps and walks that connected the house to Main Street. In this ird stage, the Hampton House anticipated the Colonial Revival designs of ich nearby residences as the Bailey House (C-67) and the Sharp-Owen ouse (C-28), both products of the economic well-being that Champion bre Company introduced to Canton in the first several decades of the ventieth century.

C-94 Wells Funeral Home (demolished) 66 Academy Street

This handsome structure was built around the turn of the century by Herbert Mease, a local physician who planned to live in the upper story, using most of the building as a hospital. It is possible that Mease had in mind a kind of sanatorium like those Buncombe County facilities that gave tubercular patients access to the healthful mountain air. In its original conception, then, the Mease building was associated with the series of boarding houses and resort hotels that were constructed after 1880 along the bank to the south of the Pigeon River (see C-44 and C-100). Local sources maintain that Mease never actually operated a hospital at this site. In the years that followed his tenure, the building was used as a boarding house by proprietors named Snider and Ray. In 1937, it was bought and renovated for use as Wells Funeral Home, the firm for which this building is best remembered.

By common local agreement, 1888 is the year that Wells Funeral Home was founded. That date establishes it as the oldest continuously operating concern in Canton. It began as part of Charles Wells' (see C-95) general merchandising business. Wells' store was the first place in Haywood County where coffins and other accoutrements of funerals and burials could be purchased. Eventually, he bought a hearse that was available for rent to

Wells Funeral Home in about 1950. Original photograph in the possession of Dutch M. Wells, Canton, N.C.

ereaved families. In the early twentieth century, Broadway Wells, oldest on of the established Canton merchant, went to school to learn the craft of nbalming. He subsequently isolated the undertaking functions of the Vells family enterprise, expanded the services provided, and opened a neral home at 53-55 Main Street (see C-43), next to the Wells general ore.

Upon reaching majority, James M. Wells (see C-18) also attended ndertaking school. He went into business with his older brother in 1925. y the time Wells Funeral Home moved to the building on Academy Street, mes Wells and his wife, Dutch McCracken Wells, were running the firm one. In a newspaper article that appeared around 1940, Wells demon-rated how completely undertaking had developed into a separate rofession with a specific identity and philosophy:

> I consider my business a problem in delicate relations. That is we strive, through careful, studious effort to lend an air to a most unfortunate occasion, of quiet, sympathetic dignity, that we believe tends to allay the grief of those we are serving.

Though the Wells Funeral Home building has always served other urposes, the structure itself is designed according to forms and details ssociated with domestic architecture. The building was a two-story framed ructure built above a brick foundation. It was originally clad with eatherboards, but by the 1950s, these had been replaced with asbestos ingles. It was a large-scale building with a steep hipped roof that was terrupted by gables, dormers, and interior brick chimney stacks. On the orth and east faces, advanced gabled bays gave the otherwise square-plan ructure a rambling, asymmetrical form. A single-story shed-roofed gallery uffered the facade and curved around a polygonal bay at the northeast orner. The porch was supported by small Doric columns and embellished ith a modillioned cornice like that which distinguished the eaves of the uilding itself.

In 1962, Wells Funeral Home, Inc. was moved to a newly built facility n the east end of Canton. At that time, this structure was razed and placed with a new commercial building for the Canton Savings and Loan ssociation.

C-95 Penland-Wells House (demolished)
181 Clyde Road

A dated brick indicated that this structure was built in 1869, probably by Robert Penland, who served as postmaster of Pigeon River during the 1850s. Situated on a gentle hillside overlooking Haywood County's major east-west thoroughfare, this big house was always an impressive sight. It was built to two-and-a-half stories of brick that was laid in a five-course common-bond pattern. A combination of Greek Revival and Gothic Revival details were used to embellish the structure. The five-bay facade was centered by sidelighted and transomed doorways on both the first and second stories. Originally, the house was illuminated by windows with six-over-six double-hung sash. Louvered blinds were also original.

On the gable-end walls, pairs of chimneys were emphasized by brickwork that was set slightly out from the plane of the walls. The sides of the house were also distinguished by lancet windows at the attic level. Following this Gothic Revival allusion, the steep gable roof had no cornice. The plan of this large-scale house was apparent from the exterior. A wide central stair passage provided access to a double file of rooms on each side. To the rear of the house, a one-story brick ell enclosed a kitchen.

Sometime around the turn of the century, Charles Wells (see C-43) bought this house for his rapidly growing family. It is probably he who

Penland-Wells House in 1974. Original photograph taken by Carey T. Wells, Jr., Canton, N.C.

ade a number of significant changes to the structure. On the facade, the iginal window glazing was replaced with single-pane sash. Two dormers ere built into the roof, and several framed service rooms were added to the ar. Most significantly, the original porch structure was replaced by a sually dominant design which included a two-story pedimented porch anked by a one-story shed-roofed gallery. Beneath the gable of the porch, a additional attic chamber was enclosed. The Colonial Revival influence of e Doric columns and turned balusters was offset by the Shingle style eatment of the attic-level tympanum.

Charles Wells was born in the Leicester community of Buncombe ounty in 1861. He lived and worked on his parents' farm on Turkey Creek ntil he was nineteen, when he traveled by train to Pigeon River. One of his aughters remembers Wells saying that when he first arrived in town on the ewly laid railway, he passed the big, imposing Penland House and resolved meday to own it himself. With several hundred dollars of capital, he ought stock for a general store, thus initiating a long and prosperous areer as a merchant and landowner. In 1892, Wells married Addie Teague. he couple raised seven children.

By the first decade of the twentieth century, Wells' ambition for social nd economic prominence was so well fulfilled that when Peter G. homson visited Canton to discuss the possibility of constructing a pulp ill in the community, it was thought appropriate that he should stay in this g brick house on the west end of town. Wells died in the house in 1927. is wife continued to live here until her death in the 1950s. Thereafter, the ouse was used intermittently as rental property until the late 1970s, when was demolished to clear a site for a new post office.

C-96 Smathers House (demolished)
57 Newfound Street

Until 1979, this house was situated on a prominent ridge, oriented toward the southeast so that it overlooked the valley of Hominy Creek. Like the Holtzclaw House on Academy Street (C-75), and the Rhodarmer-Rice House on Pisgah Drive (C-76), the Smathers House was constructed in the late nineteenth century when Newfound Street was still an open, sparsely populated country road that connected the Pigeon River community to Newfound Gap. Residents of Canton remember that this house was the home of the William Smathers family for many years. A town business directory suggests that it had been partitioned into two dwelling units by 1942.

This two-story framed and weatherboarded house has a square double-pile form set beneath a steeply pitched hipped roof. Its three-bay facade was protected by an original two-story veranda. A central stair passage facilitated circulation among the eight principal first- and second-story rooms, and a pair of interior brick chimneys provided each of these spaces with a fireplace. An original one-story single-room ell functioned as the kitchen.

97 Champion Y.M.C.A. (demolished) Main Street

Having on his heart the matter of the physical, intellectual and moral development of the individuals of the Champion Family and of the potential members of the "family" as represented by the children of the memberships, Mr. Thomson has for several years contemplated the erection of an industrial Y.M.C.A. here.

Peter G. Thomson's paternalistic notion of his responsibilities to his ampion employees, recorded in a 1919 issue of the company newspaper, s given architectural expression when the Champion Y.M.C.A. was mpleted in 1920 for a cost of $75,000. Located just behind the Champion ain Office (C-25) and the Champion Employees' Store (C-101), this ility was said to have been the second largest independent Y.M.C.A. in rth Carolina. It was designed by J. E. Sirrine, an architect whose practice s based in Greenville, South Carolina.

Built to two stories above a raised basement, this substantial brick ucture was, by deliberate emphasis on the first story, made to look like a e-story structure. This design decision, along with the exposed rafters d brackets of the gable-on-hip roof structure, imparted to the Y.M.C.A. informal, suburban character that was compatible with the con- mporary popularity of bungalow dwellings. This quality was offset by the

ampion Y.M.C.A. in about 1925. Original photograph in the possession of the *Chips* ice, Champion International, Canton, N.C.

Doric columns of the one-story gallery, the round-headed windows, and the stone beltcourse, all of which contributed to the building an upright, Colonial Revival appearance.

On the ground floor, the building enclosed two bowling alleys, several locker and shower rooms, and a swimming pool. The main floor housed a library and reading room, a gymnasium-auditorium, a billiard room, and various offices and meeting rooms. On the upper story were several classrooms and meeting rooms, as well as a banquet room and kitchen.

As Thomson conceived it, the Champion Y.M.C.A. was meant to function as a community center for varied, wholesome, family-oriented activities. Accordingly, membership was accessible and fairly inclusive:

> The requirements for membership in The Champion Y.M.C.A. are not religious, not social, not financial, but simply moral. Any man, woman, boy or girl over 12 years of age, with good moral character wil be eligible for membership on the payment of a small membership fee. The one rule obtaining among our members is that all observe conduct becoming ladies and gentlemen.

The first director of the Champion facility was M. C. Salassa (see C-11), who had specialized in physical training in college and whose credentials included two years as director of physical training with the army and navy of Brazil. He had also managed Y.M.C.A. facilities in Lynchburg, Virginia, in Indianapolis, Indiana, and in Hamilton, Ohio, where he had first come to the attention of the Thomsons.

The Champion corporation retained ownership of this property. In the 1960s, when the plant required construction of a new paper machine, the Champion Y.M.C.A. building was razed to accommodate the expansion. Its replacement, the Reuben B. Robertson Memorial Y.M.C.A. (C-40), was located on Park Street near the west end of town.

-98 Southern Railroad Depot (demolished) 165 Main Street

In 1881, workmen had completed the arduous task of constructing orth Carolina's first east-west railroad into the mountains as far as Pigeon ver. Stultified by financial and organizational problems — and by the tensive excavations required to construct tracks past Pigeon River — the estern North Carolina Railroad maintained its westernmost station in this ountain community for two years. While this delay was detrimental to the neral economic growth of the mountains, it had the effect of transforming e fortunes of Pigeon River itself. Almost immediately, privately owned rrow-gauge railways were built to fan out from the river valley, con-cting it with more remote settlements such as Morning Star, Newfound, d Bethel. Pigeon River quickly became a major shipping point for lumber, estock, and other marketable mountain commodities.

In 1883, construction of the lines was resumed and by the end of the cade, Pigeon River had established rail connections with Tennessee, uth Carolina, and Georgia. Southern Railway assumed ownership of the es through Pigeon River in 1894 — the same year that the little mountain wn took on the more worldly name of Canton. While it was no longer le to attract freight and passengers from all over the western end of the ate, Canton's status as an important railroad town was ensured by the

uthern Railroad Depot, about 1910. Original photograph in the possession of the *Chips* fice, Champion International, Canton, N.C.

arrival of the Champion Fibre Company. For many decades, the tota amount of rail traffic generated by the Mill made Canton the busiest statio in the entire Southern Railway system.

Some sort of depot or dispatching station was probably erected as soo as the railway was completed to Pigeon River in 1881. Insurance maps o Canton indicate that a small depot was standing on this site adjacent to th Mill by 1907. Within five years, this larger structure had replaced it. Buil of wood framing members, this one-story depot was oriented so that th long sides paralleled the tracks. The building was visually dominated by steep hipped roof covered with asbestos tiles. The roof's decorative kick a the eaves, which provided a protected circulation space around th building, was supported by curving brackets.

Like many other railroad stations built throughout the southeast at th turn of the century, this structure was designed in keeping with the prin ciples of the Stick style. Accordingly, varied horizontal, vertical, an diagonal patterns of matchboard siding were meant to follow the lines o the concealed framing members. They performed this task, however, i only a desultory fashion — their chief role was decorative. A small ad vanced ticket office, emphasized by a round arch over the windows an treated with a gable roof, visually separated the portions of the building tha served freight and passenger functions. Sometime around 1970, thi handsome structure was demolished and replaced by an undistinguishe modern brick depot with a mansard roof.

-99 Episcopal Mission School (demolished)
Champion Hospital
Fibreville Road

Longtime inhabitants of Canton remember that this building was ated on the hillside across the river from Fibreville. It was constructed as Episcopal Mission School (see C-66) in 1906, shortly after the Cham- n Fibre Company initiated construction of its plant in Canton. In its ucational and religious functions, this building is one of a number of titutional structures (see C-20 and C-23) that were erected to serve nton residents who were rapidly increasing not only in numbers, but also diversity of geographic origin and religious affiliation.

Unfortunately, the rapid growth of Canton's population also deter- ned this building's second important function. In the spring of 1917, the heaval of unprecedented construction, chaotic traffic on unpaved streets, d newcomers living in unaccustomed proximity resulted in a con- ninated water supply. Numerous cases of typhoid fever began to appear. e Champion Fibre Company had recently bought the mission school with intention of making it over into a club house for Mill employees. In ponse to the apparent beginnings of an epidemic, company officials ickly authorized the renovation of the building as a hospital. According an account in a June edition of *The Log,*

scopal Mission School, shortly after it was transformed into a hospital by Champion re Company. Taken from *The Log* 4 (June, 1917), p. 3.

> Men were called from very important work in the mill and a large crew, made up of carpenters, electricians, masons, painters, plumbers, and laborers attacked the old school building with the various weapons of their trade, the result being that within one week the hospital was ready for occupancy. In the meantime, someone of the Purchasing Department began telegraphing orders for hospital equipment. Fortunately a large order had been placed with a Louisville concern, by a hospital in our neighboring village, Waynesville, and this order was diverted by express to the Champion Hospital to meet the emergency.

With improved public sanitation facilities, the threat of epidemic eventually diminished. In 1919, Champion again remodeled this building, transforming it into a boarding house for new male employees.

Set on a low brick foundation, the mission school was built to one and a half stories under a cross-gable roof. The wooden frame was sheathed on the first story with weatherboards, while the gable ends, roof, dormers, and cupola were clad with wood shingles. The classrooms, meeting rooms, and living quarters of this rectangular-plan structure were illuminated with two-over-two double-hung sash windows. The original front shed-roofed dormer was fitted with decorative diamond-pane casement windows. The most visible change effected by Champion was the replacement of the original single-bay entrance porch with a shed-roofed veranda that extended along the entire length of the facade.

In form and embellishment, the Episcopal Mission School most closely resembled the structures that were erected at logging camps in remote sections of the mountains. This similarity may be a result of the pervasive popularity of what has come to be called the Shingle style (see C-82). It may also have to do with the building's original function as a mission. Just as the logging towns were never meant to be more than rough-and-ready outposts of settled communities like Canton, so the Episcopal Mission School may have been thought of and designed as an outpost of the established Episcopal congregation in Waynesville.

100 Pine Lodge Boarding House (demolished) Main Street

In the summer of 1918, the Red Cross entertained the servicemen of the nton area with an outdoor banquet served near the place where the 1972 wn Hall (C-37) was built. A photograph taken of this festive occasion orded, in the background and near the top of the frame, the Pine Lodge arding House, which was located on the bank to the south side of Main eet. This prominently sited old structure may have originally dated from last two decades of the nineteenth century, when a series of resort hotels d boarding houses (see C-44) were erected along this hillside. Vacationers o could reach the town by train or stagecoach might enjoy an unob- ucted view of the river and of the mountains beyond. When the Mill was nstructed, Canton's function as a resort community ended, and most of se establishments were made over into boarding houses and apartment ldings for those who had been attracted to the town by opportunities for ployment with Champion.

By 1912, the Pine Boarding House had the appearance that was orded in the 1918 photograph. It was a two-and-a-half-story single-pile ucture, oriented so that its long sides followed the east-west contours of hill. An advanced wing and varied fenestration contributed to the lding's rangy, informal appearance, probably the result of several

Lodge Boarding House in 1918. Detail taken from a photograph in the possession of y Lou Tate, Canton, N.C.

periods of construction. A two-story gallery sheltered most of the front o the house, and a one-story rear shed addition probably enclosed kitche facilities. Insurance maps of Canton confirm the existence of a series of one story outbuildings. By 1930, these had been replaced by a two-story square plan flanking structure. By that date as well, the surrounding yard had bee leveled and stabilized behind a low stone retaining wall.

-101 Champion Employees' Store (demolished) Main Street

Located between the Champion Y.M.C.A. (C-97) and the Champion ain Office (C-25), the Champion Employees' Store was a rectangular- an one-story brick building with a flat roof concealed behind parapet alls. On the facade, three-part commercial windows framed a recessed ntral doorway. Similar long commercial windows illuminated only the ont corners of the sides. Beyond them, small, square openings were set gh on the walls to leave room for interior shelving. The building was nbellished with geometric patterns created by rowlock courses of ickwork and bands of molded concrete.

By the 1930s, the building had been nearly doubled in size by the ldition of two wings and a second story. An open, flat-roofed and brick- ered structure sheltered the entrance. It exhibited all of the structural ements of a portico, but, as with the original structure and the nearby ain Office, any semblance of classical detailing was avoided. In this atter, the additions continued the original intention to create a utilitarian, ometric building with a modern historical appearance.

Almost from the first, the Champion Fibre Company operated a store at made household commodities available to employees and their milies. For a number of years, the enterprise was moved about among cant spaces in the factory buildings themselves. By at least 1922, the hampion Employees' Store had been formalized and given a permanent cation in this structure. All sorts of groceries, as well as clothing and dry oods, were offered for sale at the store. While it was consistently ad-

hampion Employees' Store in about 1925. Taken from an orientation pamphlet for new ployees entitled *The Champion Guide*, in the possession of the Canton Historical ommission, Canton, N.C.

vertised as a place where employees could find many goods at bargai prices, the actual character and extent of the advantages provided to mi workers has not been established.

Until World War II, customers could trade at the store with compan scrip — known as "doogaloo" to mill employees — rather than with cash The business closed in 1959. This structure, like the contiguous Y.M.C.A building, was demolished during the early 1960s to clear land for expansio of the Mill.

-102 Canton Public Library (demolished)
Eckenrod Photograph Studio
Main Street

ton Public Library and Eckenrod Photo Studio in 1915. Original photograph in the session of the Canton Historical Commission, Canton, N.C.

This modest little commercial building is significant because it had a form and details that were common to most of the structures in downtown Canton at the turn of the century. Located on the south side of Main Street between Academy Street and Mears Avenue, this building is best remembered for the functions pictured in this 1915 photograph. The first story housed an early Canton Public Library (see C-29). The women who operated the library also sold hand-crocheted doilies, which can be seen draped in the windows. On the upper story were a photographer's studio and living quarters. For many years, it was occupied by Silas Eckenrod. Older residents of Canton remember that he had different scenes painted on sliding panels or curtains that could be moved back and forth for use as backdrops.

The structure itself was set on a low common-bond brick foundation, framed with wood members and sheathed with weatherboards. The big wood-framed commercial windows of the first story flanked a narrow recessed entrance. The three-bay second-story facade was buffered by a narrow wooden balcony. The studio was reached by a steep stairway attached to the east side of the building. A hip-roofed structure was carried well beyond the plane of the facade by a series of utilitarian wooden brackets. Embellishment of this library-studio was achieved almost exclusively with contrasting colors of paint.

Numerical Listing of Sites

-1	Kerr-Fincher House	1 Terrace Drive
-2	Furness House	2 Terrace Drive
-3	Kenny-Dennett House	3 Terrace Drive
-4	Damtoft-Mease House	4 Terrace Drive
-5	Bohnsdahl House	103 Skyland Drive
-6	Stone House	102 Skyland Drive
-7	Roberts-Starkey House	104 Skyland Drive
-8	Jentz-Crute House	106 Skyland Drive
-9	Clark-Doutt House	108 Skyland Drive
-10	Calvin-Hildebrand House	110 Skyland Drive
-11	Wood-York House	112 Skyland Drive
-12	Sprang House	114 Skyland Drive
-13	Sechrest House	116 Skyland Drive
-14	Thomson Avenue Group	Thomson Avenue
-15	Fibreville Group	Woodview Drive (vicinity)
-16	Giant Dollar Store Lankford's Grocery	120 North Main Street
-17	North Canton Group	North Main Street (vicinity)
-18	Newfound Street Group	Newfound Street
	Pegram-Sellars House	76 Newfound Street
	Bryson-Hurley House	75 Newfound Street
	Wells House	44 Newfound Street
-19	Davis-Ramsey House	41 Newfound Street
-20	First Methodist Church	27 Newfound Street
-21	Canton Graded School North Canton School	70 School Street
-22	Canton Laundry and Ice Plant (site) Leader Department Store Community Store	196 Main Street
-23	Canton Presbyterian Church	190 Main Street
-24	Kirkpatrick Apartments Camelot Apartments	3 Newfound Street
-25	Champion Fibre Company Champion Paper and Fibre Company Champion Papers	

C-25	Champion International	
	Champion Main Office	Main Street
C-26	Central Methodist Church	34-44 Church Street
C-27	Bell Motor Company	35 Church Street
	Smoky Mountain Vending Company	
	Coast Lamp Manufacturing Company	
C-28	Sharp-Owen House	28 Church Street
C-29	J.O. Plott Wholesale Grocery	166-168 Main Street
	So Hy Products, Inc.	
	Industrial Distributors, Inc.	
C-30	Main Street-Church Street Block	148-156 Main Street
		19-27 Church Street
C-31	Main Street-Cabe Street Block	147-161 Main Street
	New Canton Cafe	161 Main Street
	Hartshorn Appliance Service	
	Cantonian Theatre	151 Main Street
	Stiles Mart	
	Champion Drug Store	147 Main Street
C-32	Hudson's Department Store	141 Main Street
C-33	Parris and West Esso Station	14 Park Street
	Keith's Auto Repair	
C-34	Canton Hotel	21 Park Street
C-35	Park Street-Academy Street Block	20-26 Park Street
C-36	United States Post Office	32 Park Street
C-37	Canton Town Hall	58 Park Street
	Canton Fire Station	
C-38	Colonial Theater	55-57 Park Street
C-39	Champion Motor Company	92 Park Street
	Brooks and Churm Furniture Company	
C-40	Robertson Memorial Y.M.C.A.	100 Park Street
C-41	Canton Tire and Retreading Company	23 Main Street
C-42	Holtzclaw-Taylor House	20 Main Street
C-43	C. T. Wells Store (site)	51-53 Main Street
	Main Street-Water Street Block	
C-44	Mears-Lide House	50 Main Street
	Boxwood Terrace Apartments	
C-45	Adams Street-Main Street Block	59-69 Main Street
C-46	Mears Building	Main Street
C-47	Schulman Building	71-77 Main Street
C-48	W. J. Hampton Store (site)	83-85 Main Street
	Rose's Dime Store	

-48	Jack's Five and Ten Cents Store	
	Thrif-tee Drug Discount	
-49	Champion Bank	87 Main Street
	American Cleaners and Shirt Laundry	
-50	Raiff's Department Store	93-95 Main Street
	Freel Furniture Store	
-51	Hampton-Cochran House (site)	101 Main Street
	Haywood County Bank	
	First Union National Bank	
-52	Crowder Building	80-82 Main Street
-53	Brannon Building	94 Main Street
	Dick Schulman's	
-54	Curtis-Wells Building	100 Main Street
	Curtis Grocery Store	
	Smathers Market	
-55	Medical Building	108-110 Main Street
-56	Hampton Building	112 Main Street
	Canton Optometric Clinic	
-57	Martin Building	107 Main Street
-58	Sharp Building	109 Main Street
-59	Imperial Hotel Group	111-119 Main Street
-60	McGee Building	121 Main Street
-61	Freeman-Hudson Building	125-127 Main Street
-62	Wells Building	131-137 Main Street
-63	Johnson-Matthews Office	44 Academy Street
	Edwin Haynes Insurance Agency	
	Paul Stapf Chiropractic Clinic	
-64	Robinson House	69 Academy Street
-65	Locust Field Academy (site)	74 Academy Street
	First Baptist Church	
-66	St. Andrews Episcopal Church	99 Academy Street
-67	Bailey House	122 Academy Street
-68	McGee-Johnson House	5 Bailey Street
-69	Hampton Heights Group	Hampton Heights
	Deas House	9 Hampton Heights
	Auberry-Hemphill House	14 Hampton Heights
	Sheffield House	15 Hampton Heights
	Fowler-Tate House	17 Hampton Heights
	Battison-Reeves House	19 Hampton Heights
	Lilly-Wells House	20 Hampton Heights
	Phillips-Stamey House	21 Hampton Heights
	Hampton-Moore-Trostel House	22 Hampton Heights

C-69	Edgerton-Illingworth House	23 Hampton Heights
	Hampton-Watts House	26 Hampton Heights
	Keener Apartments	28 Hampton Heights
C-70	Coleman-Matthews House	145 Academy Street
C-71	Sharp-Smathers House	134 Academy Street
C-72	Locust Field Baptist Church (site)	Academy Street at Locust Street
	Locust Field Cemetery	
C-73	Pennsylvania Avenue School	9 Pennsylvania Avenue
C-74	Pennsylvania Avenue Group	Pennsylvania Avenue
C-75	Holtzclaw House	170 Academy Street
C-76	Rhodarmer-Rice House	95 Pisgah Drive
C-77	Rollings Shell Station	119 Pisgah Drive
	Howard Amoco Station	
C-78	Hutchins House	104 Johnson Street
C-79	Highland Park Group	Pisgah Drive (vicinity)
C-80	Soesbee Group	Anne, Charles, North Streets
C-81	Powell-Pless House	132 Pisgah Drive
C-82	Russell-Owen House	136 Pisgah Drive
C-83	Sprinkle-Daniel House	150 Pisgah Drive
C-84	North Carolina National Guard Armory	81 Penland Avenue
C-85	Canton High School	70 Penland Avenue
	Canton Junior High School	
C-86	Carolina Power and Light Substation	Substation Road
	Carolina Power and Light Control Center	
C-87	Fincher-Hogan House	58 Penland Avenue
C-88	Poindexter-Cable House	40 Pearl Street
C-89	Felmet Building	23 Penland Avenue
C-90	Old Bell Tavern	111 Park Street
	Medford Restaurant	
C-91	Baptist Hill Church	81 Prospect Street
	Zion A.M.E. Church	
C-92	Allen-Cooper House	2 Cooper Street
C-93	Hampton House (demolished)	118 Main Street
C-94	Wells Funeral Home (demolished)	66 Main Street
C-95	Penland-Wells House (demolished)	181 Clyde Road
C-96	Smathers House (demolished)	57 Newfound Street
C-97	Champion Y.M.C.A. (demolished)	Main Street

-98	Southern Railroad Depot (demolished)	165 Main Street
-99	Episcopal Mission School (demolished)	Fibreville Road
	Champion Hospital	
-100	Pine Lodge Boarding House (demolished)	Main Street
-101	Champion Employees' Store (demolished)	Main Street
-102	Canton Public Library (demolished)	Main Street
	Eckenrod Photograph Studio	

Alphabetical Listing of Sites

Adams Street-Main Street Block	59-69 Main Street	C-45
Allen-Cooper House	2 Cooper Street	C-92
American Cleaners and Shirt Laundry	87 Main Street	C-49
Auberry-Hemphill House	14 Hampton Heights	C-69
Bailey House	122 Academy Street	C-67
Baptist Hill Church	81 Prospect Street	C-91
Battison-Reeves House	19 Hampton Heights	C-69
Bell Motor Company	35 Church Street	C-27
Bohnsdahl House	103 Skyland Drive	C-5
Boxwood Terrace Apartments	50 Main Street	C-44
Brannon Building	94 Main Street	C-53
Brooks and Churm Furniture Company	92 Park Street	C-39
Bryson-Hurley House	75 Newfound Street	C-18
Calvin-Hildebrand House	110 Skyland Drive	C-10
Camelot Apartments	3 Newfound Street	C-24
Canton Fire Station	58 Park Street	C-37
Canton Graded School	70 School Street	C-21
Canton High School	70 Penland Avenue	C-85
Canton Hotel	21 Park Street	C-34
Canton Junior High School	70 Penland Avenue	C-85
Canton Laundry and Ice Plant (site)	196 Main Street	C-22
Canton Optometric Clinic	112 Main Street	C-56
Canton Presbyterian Church	190 Main Street	C-23
Canton Public Library (demolished)	Main Street	C-10
Canton Tire and Retreading Company	23 Main Street	C-41
Canton Town Hall	58 Park Street	C-37
Cantonian Theatre	151 Main Street	C-31
Carolina Power and Light Control Center	Substation Road	C-86
Carolina Power and Light Substation	Substation Road	C-86
Central Methodist Church	34-44 Church Street	C-26
Champion Bank	87 Main Street	C-49
Champion Drug Store	147 Main Street	C-31
Champion Employees' Store (demolished)	Main Street	C-10

ıampion Fibre Company		C-25
ıampion Hospital (demolished)	Fibreville Road	C-99
ıampion International		C-25
ıampion Main Office	Main Street	C-25
ıampion Motor Company	92 Park Street	C-39
ıampion Paper and Fibre Company		C-25
ıampion Papers		C-25
ıampion Y.M.C.A. (demolished)	Main Street	C-97
ark-Doutt House	108 Skyland Drive	C-9
ast Lamp Manufacturing Company	35 Church Street	C-27
leman-Matthews House	145 Academy Street	C-70
lonial Theater	55-57 Park Street	C-38
mmunity Store	196 Main Street	C-22
owder Building	80-82 Main Street	C-52
rtis Grocery Store	100 Main Street	C-54
rtis-Wells Building	100 Main Street	C-54
mtoft-Mease House	4 Terrace Drive	C-4
vis-Ramsey House	41 Newfound Street	C-19
as House	9 Hampton Heights	C-69
ck Schulman's	94 Main Street	C-53
kenrod Photography Studio (demolished)	Main Street	C-102
lgerton-Illingworth House	23 Hampton Heights	C-69
iscopal Mission School (demolished)	Fibreville Road	C-99
lmet Building	23 Penland Avenue	C-89
reville Group	Woodview Drive (vicinity)	C-15
ıcher-Hogan House	58 Penland Avenue	C-87
st Baptist Church	74 Academy Street	C-65
st Methodist Church	27 Newfound Street	C-20
st Union National Bank	101 Main Street	C-51
wler-Tate House	17 Hampton Heights	C-69
el Furniture Store	93-95 Main Street	C-50
eeman-Hudson Building	125-127 Main Street	C-61
rness House	2 Terrace Drive	C-2
ant Dollar Store	120 North Main Street	C-16
ımpton Building	112 Main Street	C-56
ımpton-Cochran House (site)	101 Main Street	C-51
ımpton Heights Group	Hampton Heights	C-69
ımpton House (demolished)	118 Main Street	C-93
ımpton-Moore-Trostel House	22 Hampton Heights	C-69
.J. Hampton Store (site)	83-85 Main Street	C-48
ımpton-Watts House	26 Hampton Heights	C-69

Hartshorn Appliance Service	161 Main Street	C-31
Edwin Haynes Insurance Agency	44 Academy Street	C-63
Haywood County Bank	101 Main Street	C-51
Highland Park Group	Pisgah Drive (vicinity)	C-79
Holtzclaw House	170 Academy Street	C-75
Holtzclaw-Taylor House	20 Main Street	C-42
Howard Amoco Station	119 Pisgah Drive	C-77
Hudson's Department Store	141 Main Street	C-32
Hutchins House	104 Johnson Street	C-78
Imperial Hotel Group	111-119 Main Street	C-59
Industrial Distributors, Inc.	166-168 Main Street	C-29
Jack's Five and Ten Cents Store	83-85 Main Street	C-48
Jentz-Crute House	106 Skyland Drive	C-8
Johnson-Matthews Office	44 Academy Street	C-63
Keener Apartments	28 Hampton Heights	C-69
Keith's Auto Repair	14 Park Street	C-33
Kenny-Dennett House	3 Terrace Drive	C-3
Kerr-Fincher House	1 Terrace Drive	C-1
Kirkpatrick Apartments	3 Newfound Street	C-24
Lankford's Grocery	120 North Main Street	C-16
Leader Department Store	196 Main Street	C-22
Lilly-Wells House	20 Hampton Heights	C-69
Locust Field Academy (site)	74 Academy Street	C-65
Locust Field Baptist Church (site)	Academy Street at Locust Street	C-72
Locust Field Cemetery	Academy Street at Locust Street	C-72
Main Street-Cabe Street Block	147-161 Main Street	C-31
Main Street-Church Street	148-156 Main Street 19-27 Church Street	C-30
Main Street-Water Street Block	51-53 Main Street	C-43
Martin Building	107 Main Street	C-57
McGee Building	121 Main Street	C-60
McGee-Johnson House	5 Bailey Street	C-68
Mears Building	Main Street	C-46
Mears-Lide House	50 Main Street	C-44
Medford Restaurant	111 Park Street	C-90
Medical Building	108-110 Main Street	C-55
New Canton Cafe	161 Main Street	C-31
Newfound Street Group	Newfound Street	C-18
North Canton Group	North Main Street (vicinity)	C-17
North Canton School	70 School Street	C-21

rth Carolina National Guard Armory	81 Penland Avenue	C-84
Bell Tavern	111 Park Street	C-90
k Street-Academy Street Block	20-26 Park Street	C-35
ris and West Esso Station	14 Park Street	C-33
ram-Sellars House	76 Newfound Street	C-18
land-Wells House (demolished)	181 Clyde Road	C-95
nsylvania Avenue Group	Pennsylvania Avenue	C-74
nsylvania Avenue School	9 Pennsylvania Avenue	C-73
lips-Stamey House	21 Hampton Heights	C-69
e Lodge Boarding House (demolished)	Main Street	C-100
. Plott Wholesale Grocery	166-168 Main Street	C-29
ndexter-Cable House	40 Pearl Street	C-88
vell-Pless House	132 Pisgah Drive	C-81
ff's Department Store	93-95 Main Street	C-50
odarmer-Rice House	95 Pisgah Drive	C-76
berts-Starkey House	104 Skyland Drive	C-7
bertson Memorial Y.M.C.A.	100 Park Street	C-40
binson House	69 Academy Street	C-64
lins Shell Station	119 Pisgah Drive	C-77
e's Dime Store	83-85 Main Street	C-48
sell-Owen House	136 Pisgah Drive	C-82
Andrews Episcopal Church	99 Academy Street	C-66
ulman Building	71-77 Main Street	C-47
k Schulman's	94 Main Street	C-53
nrest House	116 Skyland Drive	C-13
rp Building	109 Main Street	C-58
rp-Owen House	28 Church Street	C-28
rp-Smathers House	134 Academy Street	C-71
ffield House	15 Hampton Heights	C-69
thers House (demolished)	57 Newfound Street	C-96
thers Market	100 Main Street	C-54
oky Mountain Vending Company	35 Church Street	C-27
Hy Products, Inc.	166-168 Main Street	C-29
sbee Group	Anne, Charles and North Streets	C-80
thern Railroad Depot (demolished)	165 Main Street	C-98
ng House	114 Skyland Drive	C-12
nkle-Daniel House	150 Pisgah Drive	C-83
f Chiropractic Clinic	44 Academy Street	C-63
s Mart	151 Main Street	C-31
ne House	102 Skyland Drive	C-6

Thomson Avenue Group	Thomson Avenue	C-14
Thrif-tee Drug Discount	83-85 Main Street	C-48
United States Post Office	32 Park Street	C-36
Wells Building	131-137 Main Street	C-62
Wells Funeral Home (demolished)	66 Main Street	C-94
Wells House	44 Newfound Street	C-18
C.T. Wells Store (site)	53 Main Street	C-43
Wood-York House	112 Skyland Drive	C-11
Zion A.M.E. Church	81 Prospect Street	C-91

Relevant Sources

en, W. C. *The Annals of Haywood County, North Carolina.* Waynesville, N.C.: 1935.

en, W. C. *Centennial of Haywood County and Its County Seat, Waynesville, North Carolina.* Waynesville: Courier Printing Company, 1908.

thur, John Preston. *Western North Carolina: A History 1730-1913.* Asheville, N.C.: Buncombe County Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1914.

ick, David R., editor. *Historical Architectural Resources of Downtown Asheville, North Carolina.* Asheville: City of Asheville, 1979.

ackmun, Ora. *Western North Carolina: Its Mountains and Its People.* Boone, N.C.: Appalachian Consortium Press, 1977.

anson's *North Carolina Business Directory 1867-1868.* Raleigh: Branson and Jones, Publishers, 1867.

anson's *North Carolina Business Directory 1869.* Raleigh: J. A. Jones, Publisher, 1869.

anson's *North Carolina Business Directory 1872.* Raleigh: L. Branson, Bookseller, 1872.

anson's *North Carolina Business Directory 1877-1878.* Raleigh: L. Branson, Publisher and Bookseller, 1878.

anson's *North Carolina Business Directory 1890.* Raleigh: Levi Branson, Office Publisher, 1889.

anson's *North Carolina Business Directory 1896.* Raleigh: Levi Branson, Office Publisher, 1896.

ggs, Joyce. *Initial Housing Element: Canton, North Carolina.* Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Local Affairs, 1970.

nton Planning Board. *Land Use Survey and Development Plan: Canton, North Carolina.* Raleigh: Department of Conservation and Development, 1963.

rolina Mountaineer: *Haywood County Industrial and Resort Edition.* December 21, 1916.

Cathey, Tyson Andrew. "A Geographic Study of the Forest Industries i Southwestern North Carolina." Thesis: University of Nort Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1948.

The Champion Family Makes Progress. Hamilton, Ohio: Champio Paper and Fibre Company, 1939.

"A Complete Paper Making Industry at Canton, North Carolina. *Charlotte Observer.* 27 July 1927, p. 3.

Connor, R. D. W. *North Carolina, Rebuilding an Ancient Com monwealth, 1584-1925.* Chicago: American Historical Society 1929.

"D. M. Killian Produced the First Electric Lights." *Waynesvill Mountaineer: Bicentennial Edition.* July, 1976, p. 1F.

Damtoft, W. J. "A Western North Carolina Industry." *North Carolin Teacher.* 2 (February, 1926), pp. 170, 184.

Davis, Rebecca Harding. "By-Paths in the Mountains." *Harper's Ne Monthly Magazine.* 61 (1880), pp. 167-185, 353-369, 532-547.

Dykeman, Wilma, and Jim Stokely. *Highland Homeland: The People o the Great Smokies.* Washington, D.C.: National Park Service 1978.

Eller, Ronald D. *Miners, Millhands, and Mountaineers: Industrializatio of the Appalachian South 1880-1930.* Knoxville: University o Tennessee Press, 1982.

Floods on Pigeon River: Vicinity of Canton and Clyde, North Carolin Knoxville: Tennessee Valley Authority Division of Water Contro Planning, 1959.

Furness, Mary. Personal interview. 12 May 1981.

Gaddis, R. R. Personal interview. 15 May 1981.

Goldston, E. F., et al. *Soil Survey of Haywood County, North Carolin* Washington, D.C.: United States Department of Agriculture, 1954

Greene, J. R. "Locust Field Church, Haywood County." *Wake Fore Student.* 26 (September, 1906), pp. 46-48.

Griffith, Robert W. "Champion Products and Their Uses." *The Log.* 1 (June, 1930), pp. 2-3.

Griffith, Robert W. "The Industrial Development of the South." *Th Log.* 8 (July, 1927), p. 7.

Griffith, Robert W. "Is Canton on the Map?" *The Log.* 11 (December, 1928), p. 7.

Hardin, C. W. "Champion Changed Way of Life in Canton." *Waynesville Mountaineer: Bicentennial Edition.* July, 1976, p. 4D.

Hartman, Vladimir E. "A Cultural Study of a Mountain Community in Western North Carolina." Dissertation: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1957.

"Haywood's History Dates Back 168 Years." *Waynesville Mountaineer: Bicentennial Edition.* July, 1976, p. 2C.

"Haywood's Townships Have Progressive History." *Waynesville Mountaineer: Bicentennial Edition.* July, 1976, p. 4C.

Hensley, Jay. "Canton is a Community Built Sturdily on Paper." *Asheville Times.* 23 April 1962, section 2, p. 1.

"Home Builders Agreement Plan." *The Log.* 9 (January, 1927), p. 10.

Hudson, Margaret Wells. Personal interview. 22 September 1984.

Hurley, Daisey. Personal interview. 30 January 1981.

Hurney, Robert C., et al. *Soil Survey of Haywood County, North Carolina.* Washington, D.C.: United States Department of Agriculture, 1925.

Janning, Kaye. "The Growth of the Paper Industry in Western North Carolina: Champion Fibre Company 1906-1932." Thesis: University of North Carolina at Asheville, 1977.

Lehmkuhl, William M. "Planning for Growth in Our Canton Community." public lecture, Canton, N.C. 16 March 1964.

Levine, Katherine M. "History of Canton and Haywood County." Unpublished manuscript in the possession of the author, Boone, North Carolina.

"Masons Influenced All Areas of Haywood County Development." *Waynesville Mountaineer: Bicentennial Edition.* July, 1976, p. 7E.

Maunder, Elwood R., and Elwood L. Demmon. "Trailblazing in the Southern Paper Industry: An Interview with Reuben B. Robertson." *Forest History.* 5 (Spring, 1961), pp. 6-12.

Maunder, Elwood R. *Voices from the South: Recollections of Four Foresters.* Santa Cruz: Forest History Society, 1977.

Medford, W. Clark. *The Early History of Haywood County.* Waynesville, N.C.: 1961.

Medford, W. Clark. *Haywood's Heritage and Finest Hour.* Waynesville, N.C.: 1971.

Medford, W. Clark. *Land O' the Sky.* Waynesville: 1965.

Medford, W. Clark. *The Middle History of Haywood County.* Waynesville, N.C.: 1968.

Medford, W. Clark. *Mountain People, Mountain Times.* Waynesville, N.C.: 1963.

Meier, H. R. "Papermaking." *The Champion Magazine.* January, 1981, pp. 3-13.

Miller, George Augustus. *Cemeteries and Family Graveyards in Haywood County, North Carolina.* Waynesville, N.C.: 1979.

Miller's Canton, North Carolina City Directory 1937-1938. Asheville, N.C.: Charles Miller, Publisher, 1937.

Miller's Canton, North Carolina Directory 1942-1943. Asheville, N.C.: Charles Miller, Publisher, 1942.

"Miss Mary Holtzclaw Tells History of Canton." *Waynesville Mountaineer: Bicentennial Edition.* July, 1976, p. 2D.

Morris, Margaret W. "The Completion of the Western North Carolina Railroad: Politics of Concealment." *North Carolina Historical Review.* 52 (Summer, 1975), pp. 256-282.

"90-Year-Old Canton Man Recalls Early Days of That Section of County." *Waynesville Mountaineer: Fifty Years of Progress.* 1950, p. 41.

North Carolina Business Directory 1884. Raleigh: L. Branson, Publisher, 1884.

North Carolina: General Population Characteristics. Washington, D.C.: United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, 1971.

North Carolina: General Social and Economic Characteristics. Washington: United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, 1971.

"$1,500,000 Paper Plant Built in Record Time." *Manufacturers Record.* 12 May 1932, pp. 20-22.

Owen, Robert. Personal interview. 11 April 1980.

arris, John. "Town Founded on Paper." *Asheville Citizen.* 23 June 1956, p. 1.

leasants, Paul. "Canton — A Little Industrial Giant." *The State.* 15 August 1953, pp. 8-9, 16-18.

owell, William S. *North Carolina Gazetteer.* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1968.

eeves, W. Thomas. "A History of Haywood County." Thesis: Duke University, 1937.

obertson, Reuben B. "Reminiscences of Champion Paper and Fibre Company." Asheville, N.C.: United States Forest Service Extension Service Library, undated.

orie, Nancy Katheryn. "Historical Studies of Western North Carolina." Dissertation: Duke University, 1977.

anborne Map Company. *Canton, North Carolina.* New York, 1907.

anborne Map Company. *Canton, North Carolina.* New York, 1912.

anborne Map Company. *Canton, North Carolina.* New York, 1930.

Savings and Loan Associations Have Fine History of Growth." *Waynesville Mountaineer: Bicentennial Edition.* July, 1976, p. 6F.

henck, Carl Alvin. *The Birth of Forestry in America: Biltmore Forest School 1898-1913.* Santa Cruz: Forest History Society, 1974.

eaman, Aurelia Sharp. Personal interview. 11 April 1980.

ellars, Howard, and Mary Sellars. Personal interview. 14 May 1981.

harp, Hilda. Personal interview. 15 May 1981.

harpe, Bill. "Highland Haywood." *The State.* 15 August 1953, pp. 3-5, 20-22.

harpe, Bill. *A New Geography of North Carolina.* Raleigh: Sharpe Publishing Company, 1954.

mpson, Marcus B. "William Brewster's Exploration of the Southern Appalachian Mountains: The Journal of 1885." *North Carolina Historical Review.* 57 (Winter, 1980), pp. 43-77.

esbee, Paul. Personal interview. 11 August 1981.

esbee, V. B. Personal interview. 12 April 1981.

Stamey, Patty. "Champion Fibre Company Labor Reforms 1906-1929." Senior thesis: Mars Hill College, 1980.

Stokes, Durward T. "North Carolina and the Great Revival of 1800." *North Carolina Historical Review*. 43 (Fall, 1966), pp. 401-412.

The Story of the Canton Division. Canton, North Carolina: Champion Paper and Fibre Company, 1948.

Theurkauf, Sarah. "Timberlands." *The Champion Magazine*. January, 1981, pp. 37-41.

This is Champion: A Proud Name in American Industry. Hamilton, Ohio: Champion Paper and Fibre Company, 1954.

"Those Were the Days." *The Log*. 33 (June, 1950), pp. 28-29.

Van Noppen, Ina W., and John Van Noppen. *Western North Carolina Since the Civil War*. Boone, N.C.: Appalachian Consortium Press, 1973.

Wells, Carey Teague, Sr. Personal interview. 12 April 1980.

Wells, Dutch McCracken. Personal interview. 31 October 1980.

Williams, Carroll E. "A Well Rounded Out Paper Making Industry in Western North Carolina: A Marvel of Efficiency." *Manufacturers Record*. 29 March 1923, pp. 1-4.

Yoder, Julian Clifton. "The Mountain Counties of North Carolina: A Geographic Study." Dissertation: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1949.